Action Comics
COMIC HIGH'S BRAND

つぐもも

2

浜田よしかづ

IT'S TOO TIGHT ...

TSUGUMOMO VOLUME 2

つぐもも

2

浜田よしかづ

YOSHIKADU HAMADA

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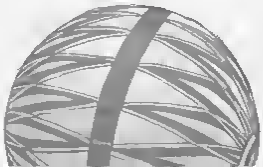
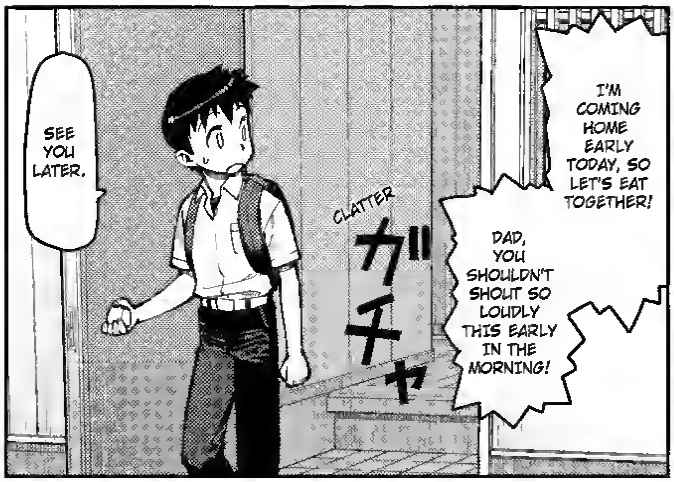
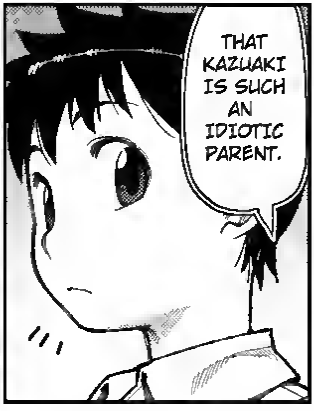


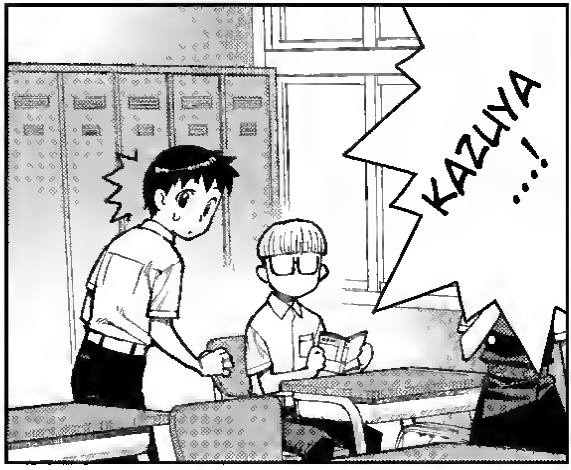
Chapter 6: Arm Wrestling


SEE YOU LATER.
CLATTER
ガチャ
I'M COMING HOME EARLY TODAY, SO LET'S EAT TOGETHER!
DAD, YOU SHOULDN'T SHOUT SO LOUDLY THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING!

KAZUYA! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ANYTHING? DID YOU GO TO THE TOILET?
LOOK BOTH WAYS WHEN YOU STEP INTO THE ROAD!

KIRIHA COMPROMISED TO BE TAKEN TO SCHOOL IN THE SASH FORM AS A RESULT OF THE DISCUSSION.
YEAH.
IT SEEMS LIKE HE WAS MORE NORMAL IN THE PAST, THOUGH.


THAT KAZUAKI IS SUCH AN IDIOTIC PARENT.


KAZUYA ...!

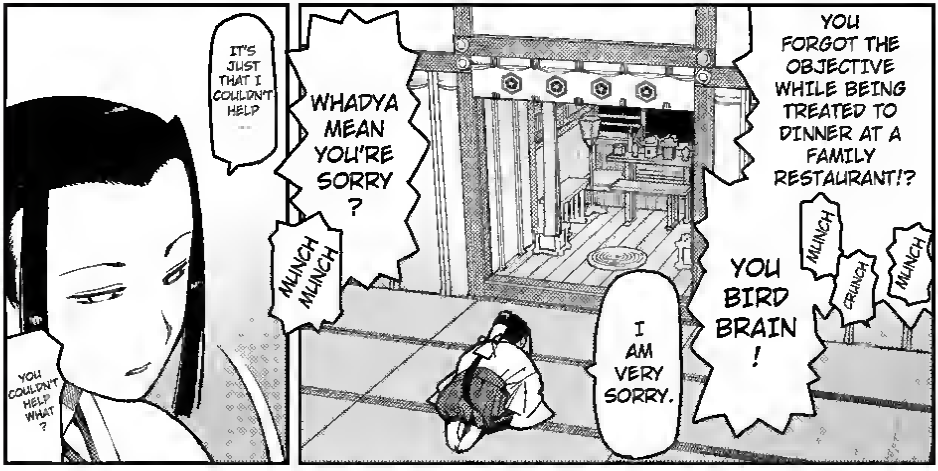
キーンコーン
SCHOOL BELL

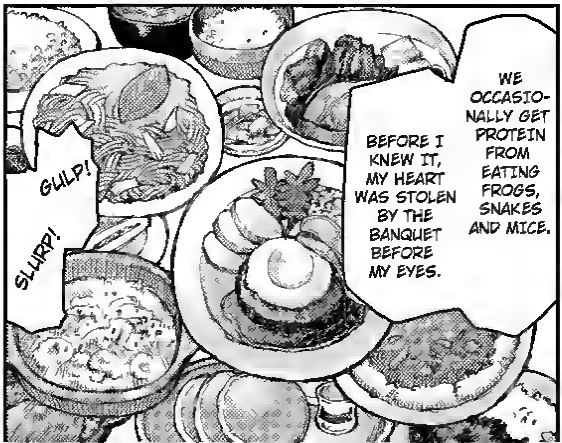
BAM!

SHUT UP! BLAH BLAH BLAH! BECAUSE OF YOU, BAD THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TO ME!
BLAH BLAH BLAH
かくかくしかじか
WH... WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

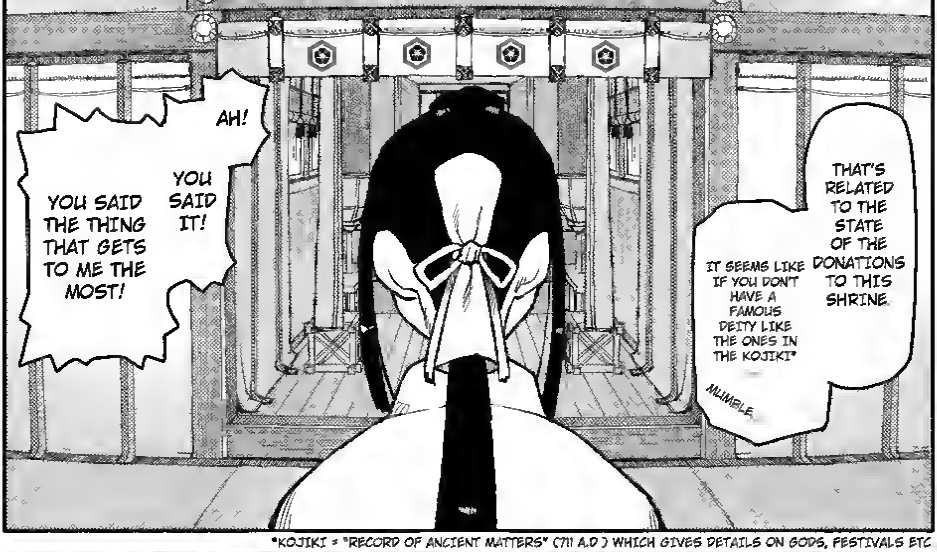
SO, YOU'RE DOING A PART-TIME JOB TO EARN MONEY FOR THOSE DINNERS?
THAT'S AGAINST THE SCHOOL RULES!
PWAP!
HEH! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, CLASS REP!
IN THE END, I LENT IT TO YOU.
IT WAS ABOUT 500,000 YEN*.
WHAT!?
YOU REALLY HELPED ME OUT THERE, LORD OSAMU.
THAT'S OK. YOU CAN DO 500,000 YEN'S WORTH OF WORK.
SHWP!
AFTER THAT, SHIROU SHIRAMINE WOULD EXPERIENCE THE HELL OF HELPING OSAMU WRITE FAN-MANGA FOR THE WHOLE SUMMER.
*THAT'S MORE THAN $6000!

YOU IDIOT !!


YOU COULDN'T HELP WHAT ?
IT'S JUST THAT I COULDN'T HELP ...
WHADYA MEAN YOU'RE SORRY ?
MUNCH MUNCH
I AM VERY SORRY.
YOU FORGOT THE OBJECTIVE WHILE BEING TREATED TO DINNER AT A FAMILY RESTAURANT!?
YOU BIRD BRAIN !
MUNCH
CRUNCH
MUNCH


GULP!
SLURP!
BEFORE I KNEW IT, MY HEART WAS STOLEN BY THE BANQUET BEFORE MY EYES.
WE OCCASIONALLY GET PROTEIN FROM EATING FROGS, SNAKES AND MICE.

RECENTLY WE'VE BEEN EATING EDIBLE GRASS WITH MAYONNAISE

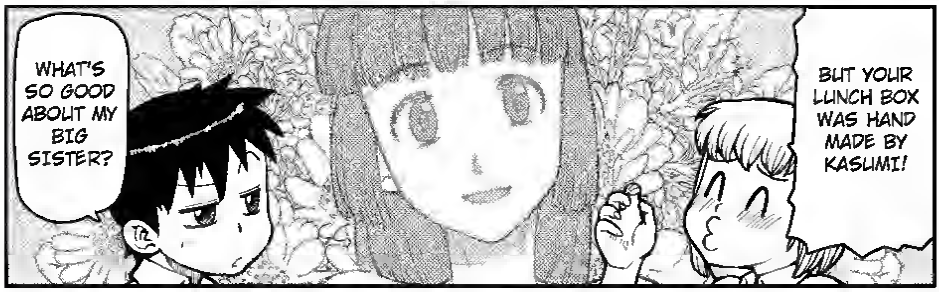

AH!
YOU SAID IT!
YOU SAID THE THING THAT GETS TO ME THE MOST!
THAT'S RELATED TO THE STATE OF THE DONATIONS TO THIS SHRINE.
IT SEEMS LIKE IF YOU DON'T HAVE A FAMOUS DEITY LIKE THE ONES IN THE KOJIKI*
MUMBLE

*KOJIKI = "RECORD OF ANCIENT MATTERS" (711 A.D.) WHICH GIVES DETAILS ON GODS, FESTIVALS ETC

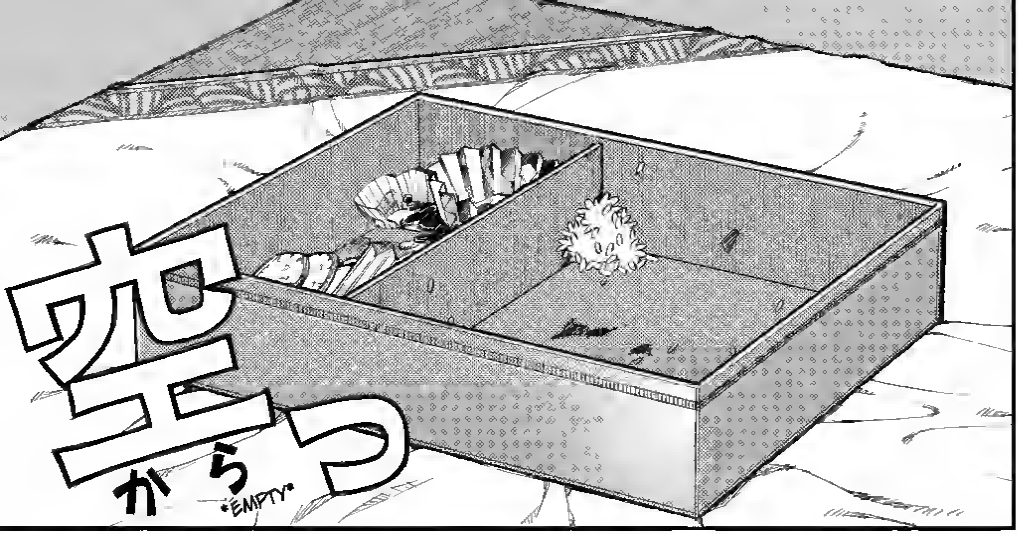
YOU DID SAY IT!
I NEVER FAIL TO HEAR IF SOMEONE IS SAYING BAD THINGS ABOUT ME!
SIGN HAKUSAN SHRINE
WHO WOULD SAY THAT YOU ARE A GOD WITH NOT MUCH PRESENCE, BEING ONLY BRIEFLY MENTIONED IN JAPANESE RECORDS?
MUMBLE
YOU'RE PROBABLY IMAGINING THAT YOU HEARD IT, MASTER KUKURI.

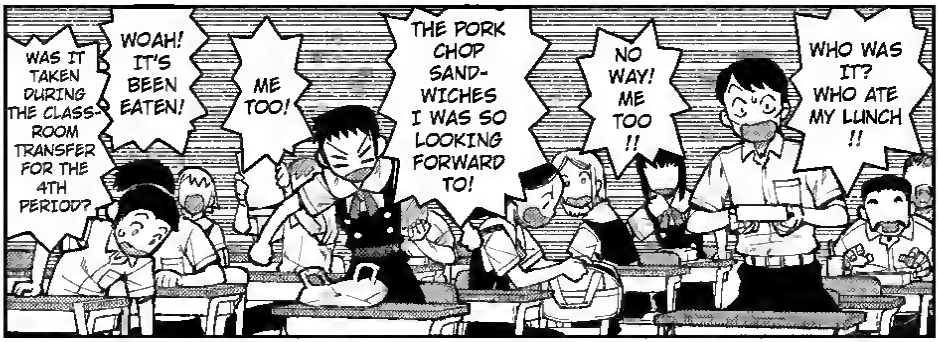
YOU GOT THAT? DON'T MAKE A SCENE.
ALSO, WE DON'T NEED THAT DISH-CLOTH GIRL.
YES.
HE'LL BE AT SCHOOL NOW, SO MAKE CONTACT WITH WHEN HE LEAVES SCHOOL, WITHOUT MAKING A SCENE.
YES.

LUNCH BREAK ...
THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT !!
LET'S BET OUR LUNCH BOXES ON AN ARM WRESTLING MATCH!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BAM!


WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT MY BIG SISTER?
BUT YOUR LUNCH BOX WAS HAND MADE BY KASUMI!

あぁあぁ
AAAAAAARRGGH
AH HA !
ARM WREST-LING, HUH?
DO YOU KNOW IT?
OF COURSE, YOU IDIOT! I'VE DONE IT MANY TIMES!
WELL THEN, LET'S BEGIN!


空っ
からっ
"EMPTY"

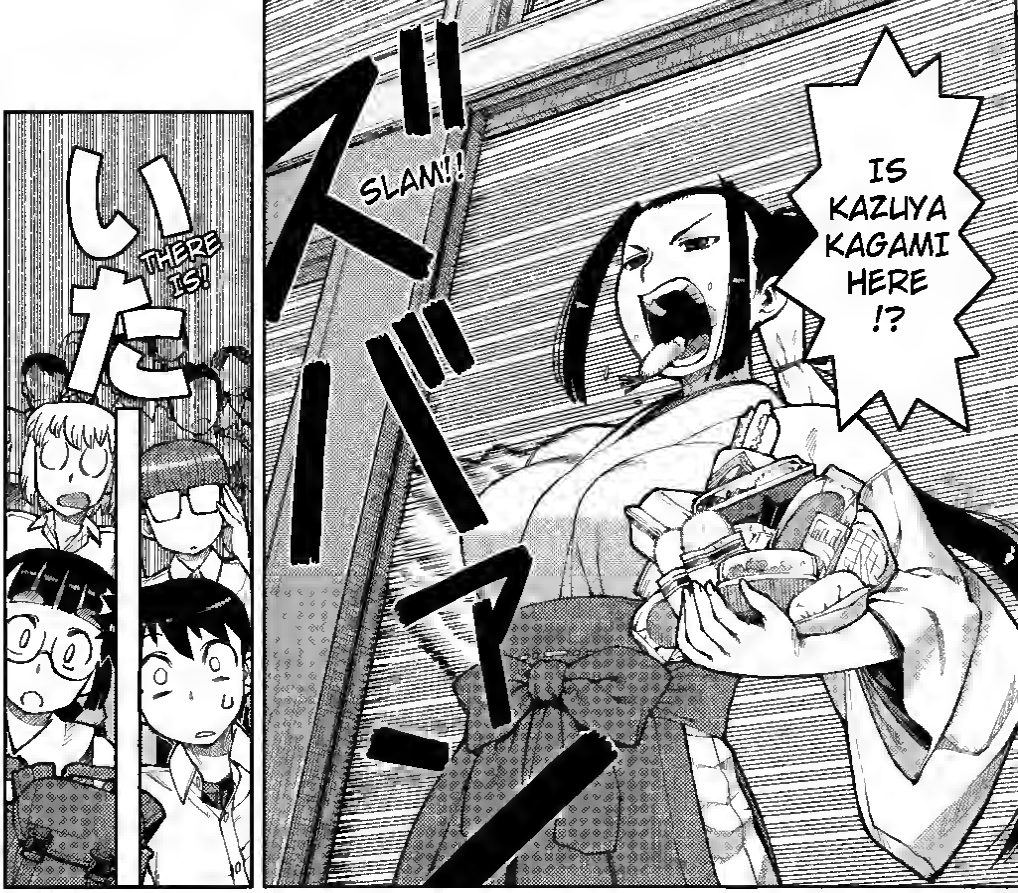

WAS IT TAKEN DURING THE CLASS-ROOM TRANSFER FOR THE 4TH PERIOD?
WOAH! IT'S BEEN EATEN!
ME TOO!
THE PORK CHOP SAND-WICHES I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO!
NO WAY! ME TOO !!
WHO WAS IT? WHO ATE MY LUNCH !!

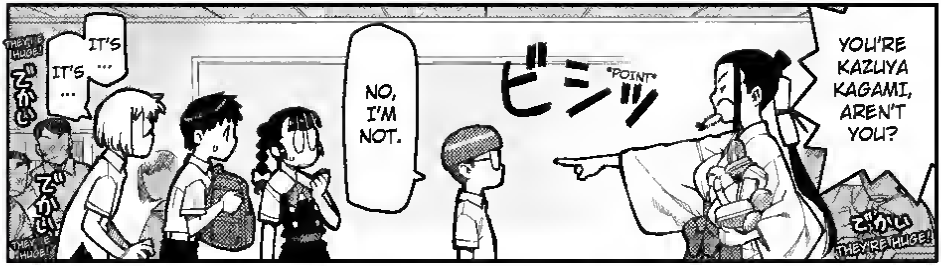
JUST SO YOU KNOW ...
I'M VEWY SOWWY

IT WASN'T YOU, WAS IT, KIRIHA?
ヒュッ
SHUP!

AAAARGH!
ぎゃあああ
AH, MINE TOO.

IS THERE ANYONE WHO COULD EAT 30 LUNCH BOXES?
HA!
IT WAS A THIEF THAT CAN EAT A HELL OF A LOT OF FOOD.
NO, NO
AN AMA SOU!
UMMM.. IT HAPPENED AGAIN?

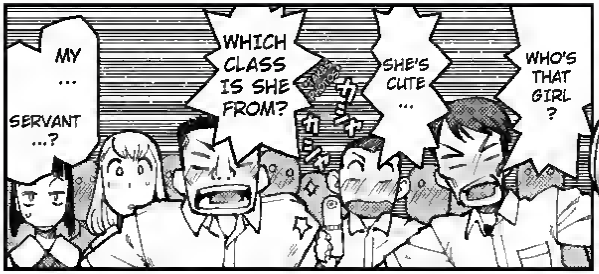

IS KAZUYA KAGAMI HERE !?
SLAM!!
THERE IS!

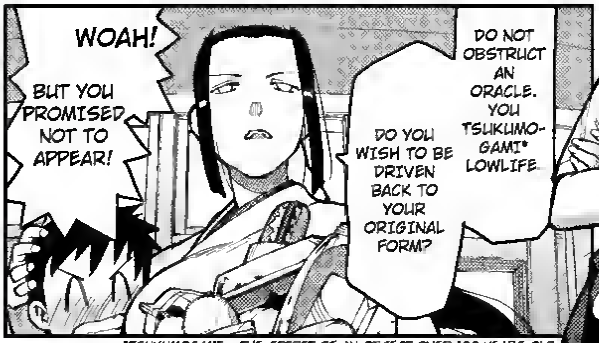

YOU'RE KAZUYA KAGAMI, AREN'T YOU?
"POINT"
NO, I'M NOT.
IT'S ...
IT'S ...
THEY'RE HUGE!
THEY'RE HUGE!
THEY'RE HUGE!

IT'S HER ...!
SHE'S THE GIRL WITH THE BIG APPETITE!
PAY FOR THE FOOD!
OR LET ME SQUEEZE YOUR BOOBS!

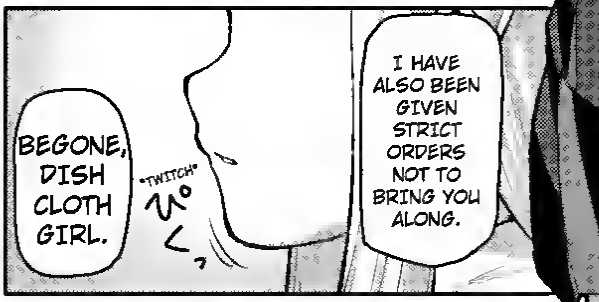
SHE'S FORGOTTEN!
WHO'RE YOU?
WHO WOULD TREAT SOMEONE TO EVERYTHING ON THE MENU!? THANKS TO YOU, I'M IN A TERRIBLE SITUATION!
HOWEVER, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU'D TREAT ME.
OH ... THANK YOU FOR YESTER-DAY.
PAY UP OR LET ME SQUEEZE YOUR BOOBS!!
YESTER-DAY, I TREATED YOU TO A MEAL AT THAT FAMILY RESTAU-RANT !
DON'T DO THIS DON'T DO THAT. IF YOU CAN ACCEPT THAT, THE POLICE ...
HA!
I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT!
でん
WOBBLE
BUT I HAVE NO MONEY, SO SQUEEZE MY BREASTS.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.
乳を揉め
SQUEEZE MY BREASTS
ゲヘ
MUHMUH
だが金は無い
I HAVE NO MONEY.

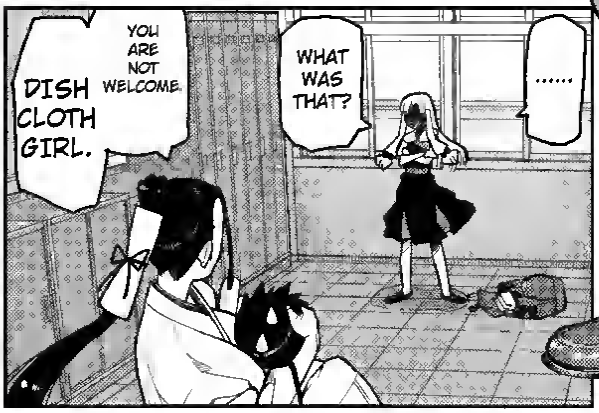
SQUEEZE SQUEEZE SQUEEZE SQUEEZE SQUEEZE




WOAH!
BUT YOU PROMISED NOT TO APPEAR!
DO YOU WISH TO BE DRIVEN BACK TO YOUR ORIGINAL FORM?
DO NOT OBSTRUCT AN ORACLE. YOU TSUKUMO-GAMI* LOWLIFE.

*TSUKUMOGAMI = THE SPIRIT OF AN OBJECT OVER 100 YEARS OLD

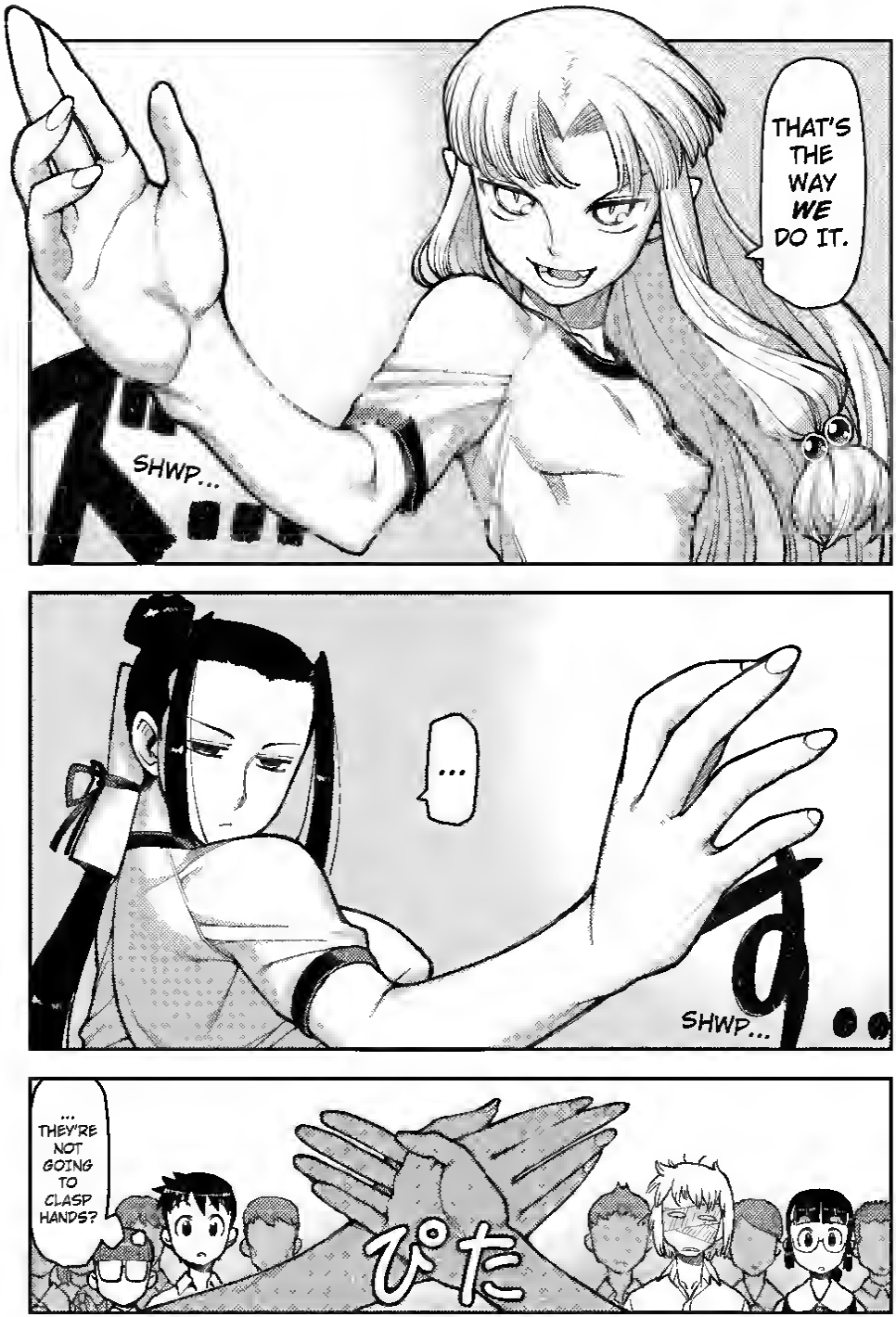




SWOOOSH!!
オバアッ
YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH, YOU KUKURI-FOLLOWING SCUM !!
A DUEL IT IS, BIG GIRL! IT'LL CUT YOU TO RIBBONS ALONG WITH THOSE MONSTER BREASTS!!
YOU ...
YOU ...
YOU ...
YOU!
CRASH!!
ガバッ
HOW CAN I HOLD BACK!? I CAN FORGIVE ANYTHING BUT THAT NAME!!
YOU SHOULDN'T GET THINGS LIKE THAT OUT IN FRONT OF PEOPLE!!
HEY! LET ME GO KAZUYA !
WOAH !! CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN!
IS IT MAGIC?
マジック!?
IS IT A HIDING TRICK?
かくし芸?
LET'S SOLVE THIS PEACEFULLY!
THAT'S IT!
WAIT! WAIT!
WHAT!?
ARE YOU SCARED, DISH CLOTH GIRL?
I DON'T MIND AT ALL.
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

SCRAWL SCRAWL SCRAWL
ドドド
BOOM!
ドド
BOOM!

ROAR!!
BECAUSE THAT'S THE OUTFIT FOR ARM WRESTLING !!
THAT WAS YOUR IDEA, WASN'T IT?
SHIMP!
チャ
WHY ... DO I NEED TO GET CHANGED INTO THESE KINDS OF CLOTHES?
IT'S TOO TIGHT ...
ムニュ
I LIKE IT BECAUSE I CAN MOVE EASILY.
IT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT?
HA!
AAARRGH!
ギャあぁ
D...
DECI-SIVE BLOW !?
AND THIS DESK IS IN THE WAY
IF YOU BREAK THESE RULES, YOU LOSE. IF YOU CAN LAND A DECISIVE BLOW TO THE FACE, YOU WIN.
YOU CAN ONLY USE ONE ARM AND BOTH FEET MUST STAY ON THE GROUND.
THEY'RE SIMPLE.
THE MORE COM-PLEX RULES ARE ...
ゴイツ
STAMP!!
IN THIS ONE-FALL ARM WRESTLING MATCH ..
IF KIRIHA WINS, SHE CAN COME TO THE SHRINE. IF SHE LOSES, SHE STAYS BEHIND.
...WHAT? IT LOOKS LIKE WHATEVER HAPPENS, I STILL HAVE TO GO.
THIS IS ARM WRESTLING, ISN'T IT?
YES, ARM WREST-LING.

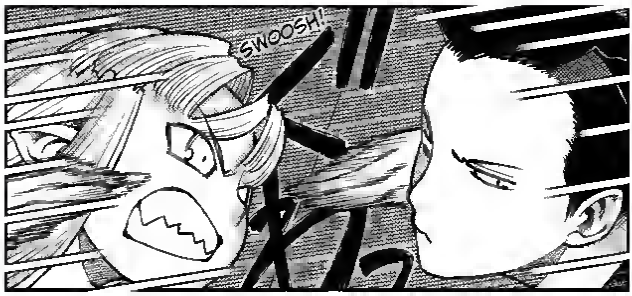

THAT'S THE WAY WE DO IT.
SHWP...
...
SHWP...
...THEY'RE NOT GOING TO CLASP HANDS?
ぴた
HANDS MEET

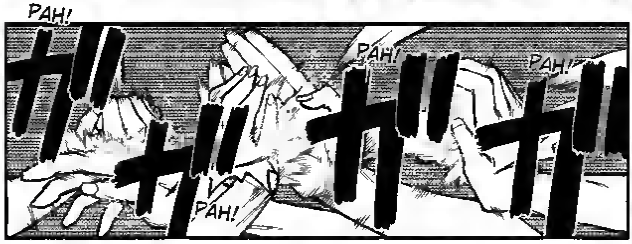
チリ..
CRACKLE
!!!
POW!!!
チイ

PAH!
PAH!
PAH!
SHWP!
BOOOM!
CRACKLE!
SWOOSH!
UGH!
BOOM!
SMACK!

SMACK!
GRIP!
SWISH!
SHLIP!
BAM!

POW!
SHWP!
BAM!
PAH!
SOUND OF ARM BEING WRENCHED


SWOOSH!

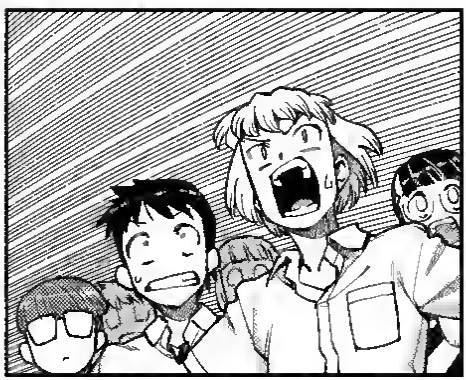

PAH!
PAH!
PAH!
PAH!

GRAB!

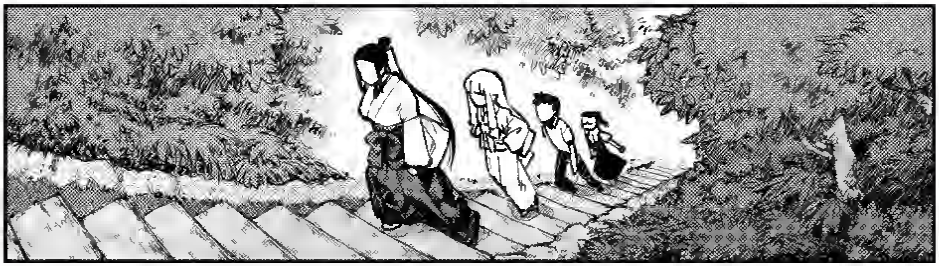
GRAAAH!!
LA-PSSH!!

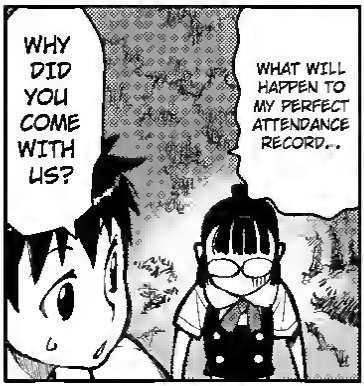
CRACK!!

SLAM!!!
ドシャアッ

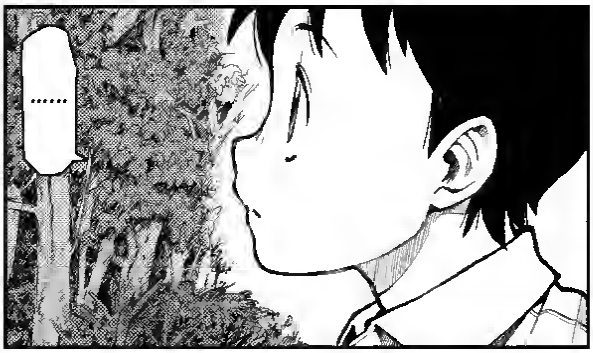


WOOOOAAAHHH!!!
WOOOAAAH!!
SHLIP!
SCRAM! SCRAM! SCRAM!
THAT WAS SOOOOO COOL!!
..... W...
SUDDENLY APPEARS
THE 5TH PERIOD HAS ALREADY STARTED !!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING !?
HUH?
SWOOOSH
ヒュウ...
WHO AGAINST WHO?
ARM WRESTLING ...?
SORRY, WE WERE REALLY GETTING INTO THE ARM WRESTLING MATCH WE WERE WATCHING.



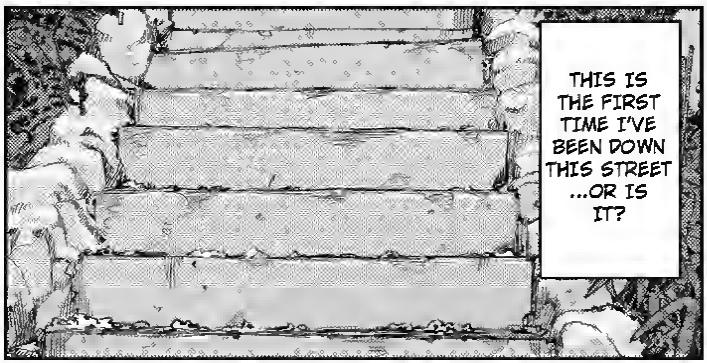

WHY DID YOU COME WITH US?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECORD...

THE NEXT TIME YOU CALL ME THAT, I'LL CUT YOU UP WITH MY SASH!
A PROMISE IS A PROMISE. COME WITH US IF YOU WISH, DISH CLOTH GIRL.


.....

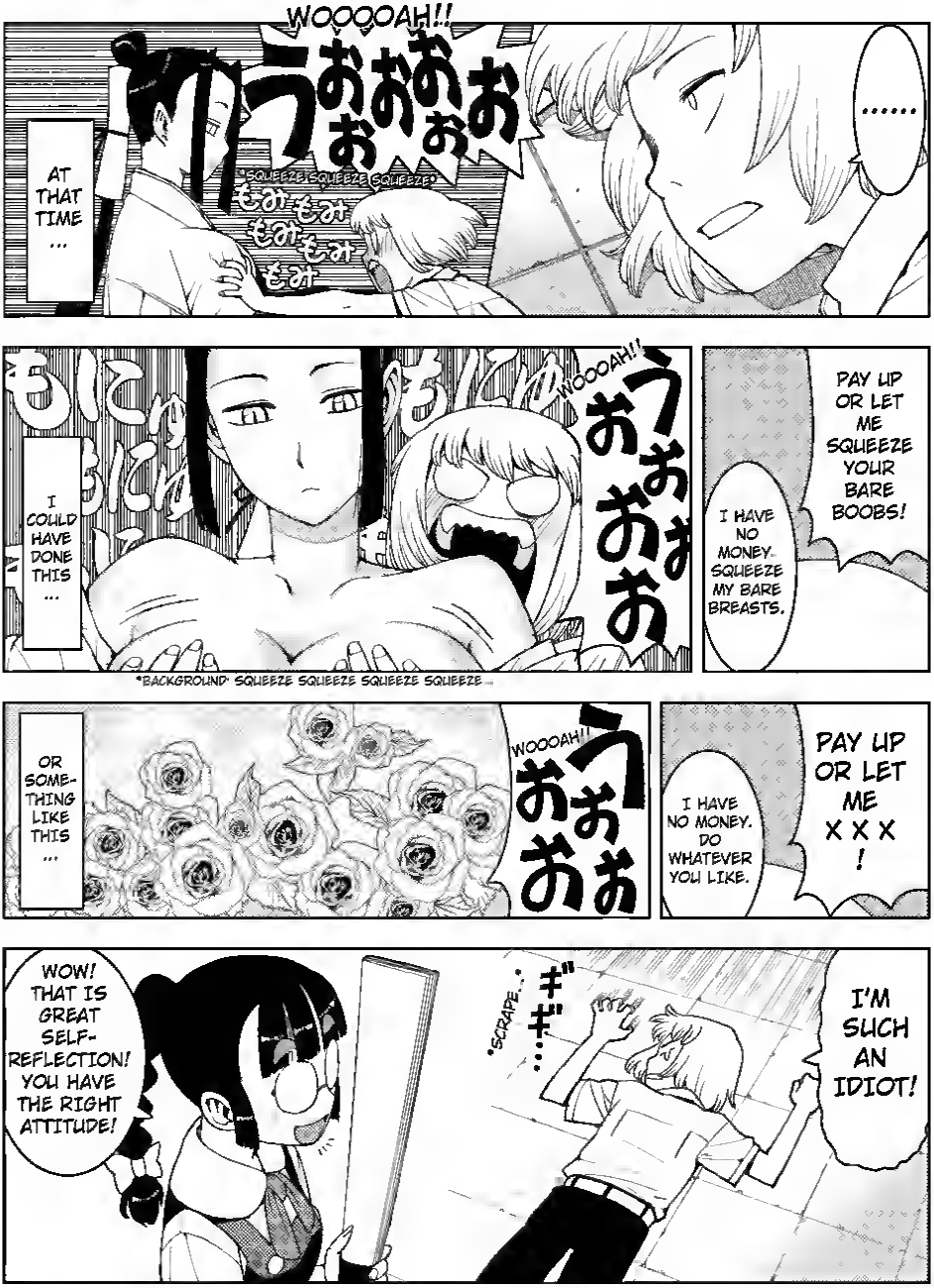
EVEN THE PARISH-IONERS DON'T KNOW. WHAT A SHAME...
THERE'S A SHRINE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...?

WE'RE HERE.
RUSTLE...


THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN DOWN THIS STREET ...OR IS IT?

RUSTLE...
SIGN. HAKUSAN SHRINE
白山神社
WELCOME TO HAKUSAN SHRINE.

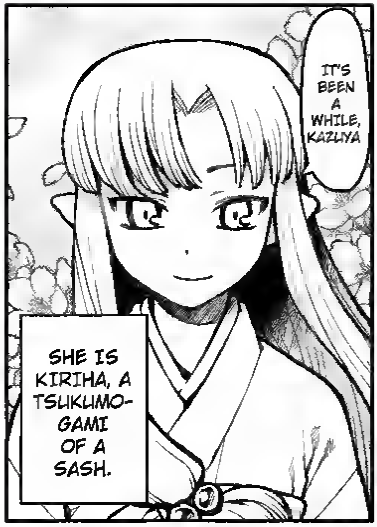
IN CHAPTER 6

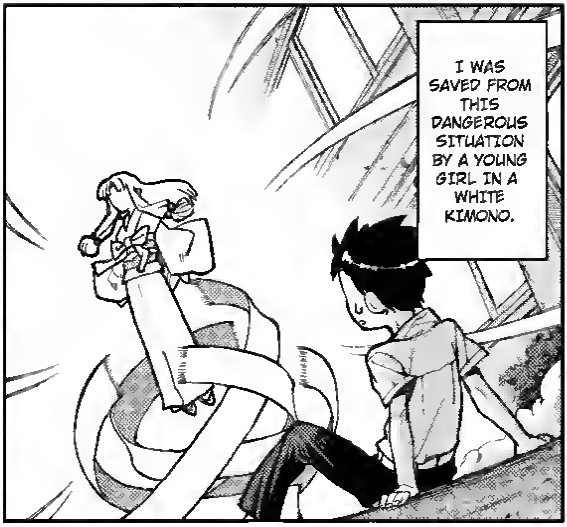

WOOOOAH!!
うおおおおお
SQUEEZE SQUEEZE SQUEEZE
もみもみ
もみもみ
もみ
AT THAT TIME ...
.....
うおおおおお
WOOOAH!!
I COULD HAVE DONE THIS ...
PAY UP OR LET ME SQUEEZE YOUR BARE BOOBS!
I HAVE NO MONEY... SQUEEZE MY BARE BREASTS.
BACKGROUND SQUEEZE SQUEEZE SQUEEZE SQUEEZE...
OR SOME-THING LIKE THIS ...
うおおおおお
WOOOAH!!
PAY UP OR LET ME XXX !
I HAVE NO MONEY. DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
WOW! THAT IS GREAT SELF-REFLECTION! YOU HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE!
*SCRAPE...
ギギ…
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!

IT'S GREAT WITHOUT CLOTHES

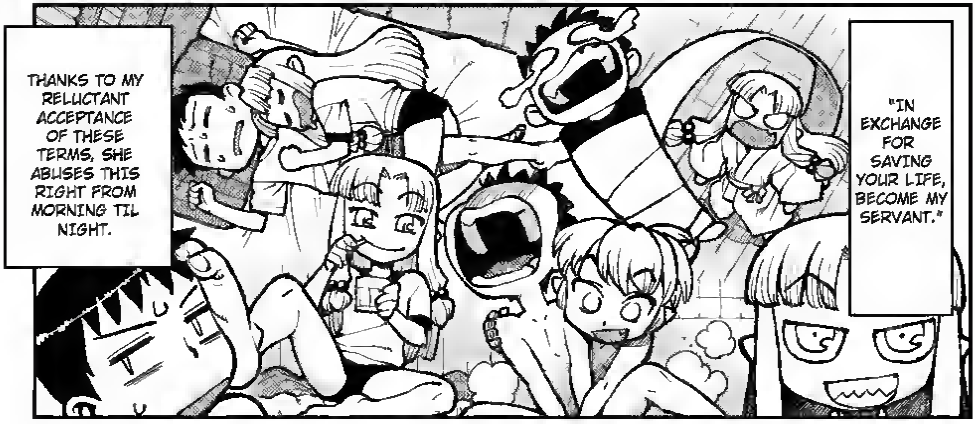
*SARASHI = A TRADITIONAL TYPE OF SASH TIED AROUND THE CHEST TO PROVIDE AN EXTRA LAYER OF PROTECTION (FOR SAMURAI), HIDE THE APPEARANCE OF BREASTS (IN TIMES WHERE LARGE BREASTS WERE NOT GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE ATTRACTIVE) OR WHEN WOMEN WISHED TO DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS MEN. NOW THEY ARE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH HAVING A TOUGH IMAGE, FOR YAKUZA AND OTHER SIMILAR CHARACTERS.

HELP ME ...!
SWOOSH!
I'M KAZUYA KAGAMI, A 2ND GRADE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT. I WAS ATTACKED BY A HAIR MONSTER, AFTER SCHOOL ON THE SCHOOL ROOF...

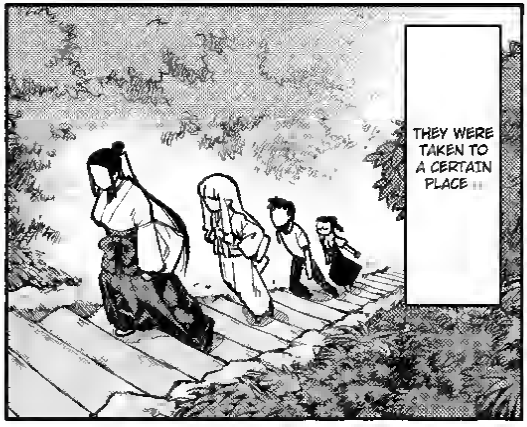


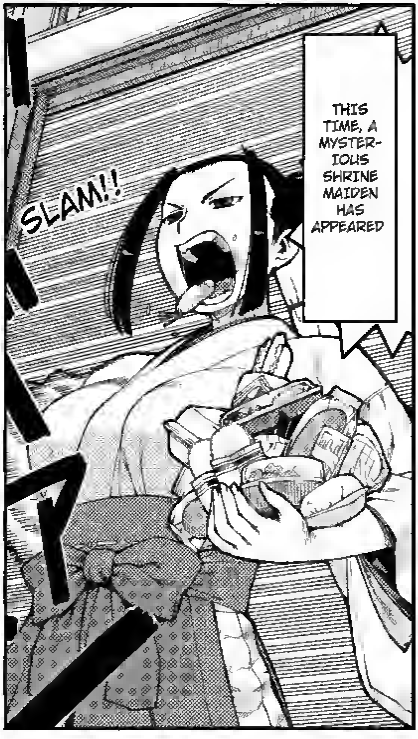


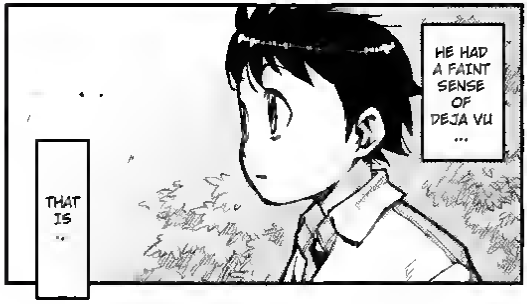
*TSUKUMOGAMI = THE SPIRIT OF AN OBJECT OVER 100 YEARS OLD


"IN EXCHANGE FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE, BECOME MY SERVANT."
THANKS TO MY RELUCTANT ACCEPTANCE OF THESE TERMS, SHE ABUSES THIS RIGHT FROM MORNING TIL NIGHT.

ROOOOOAR!!
THANKS TO KIRIHA, THEY WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM THE LIBRARY OF INFINITY.
THEN, MORE STRANGE THINGS STARTED TO OCCUR.

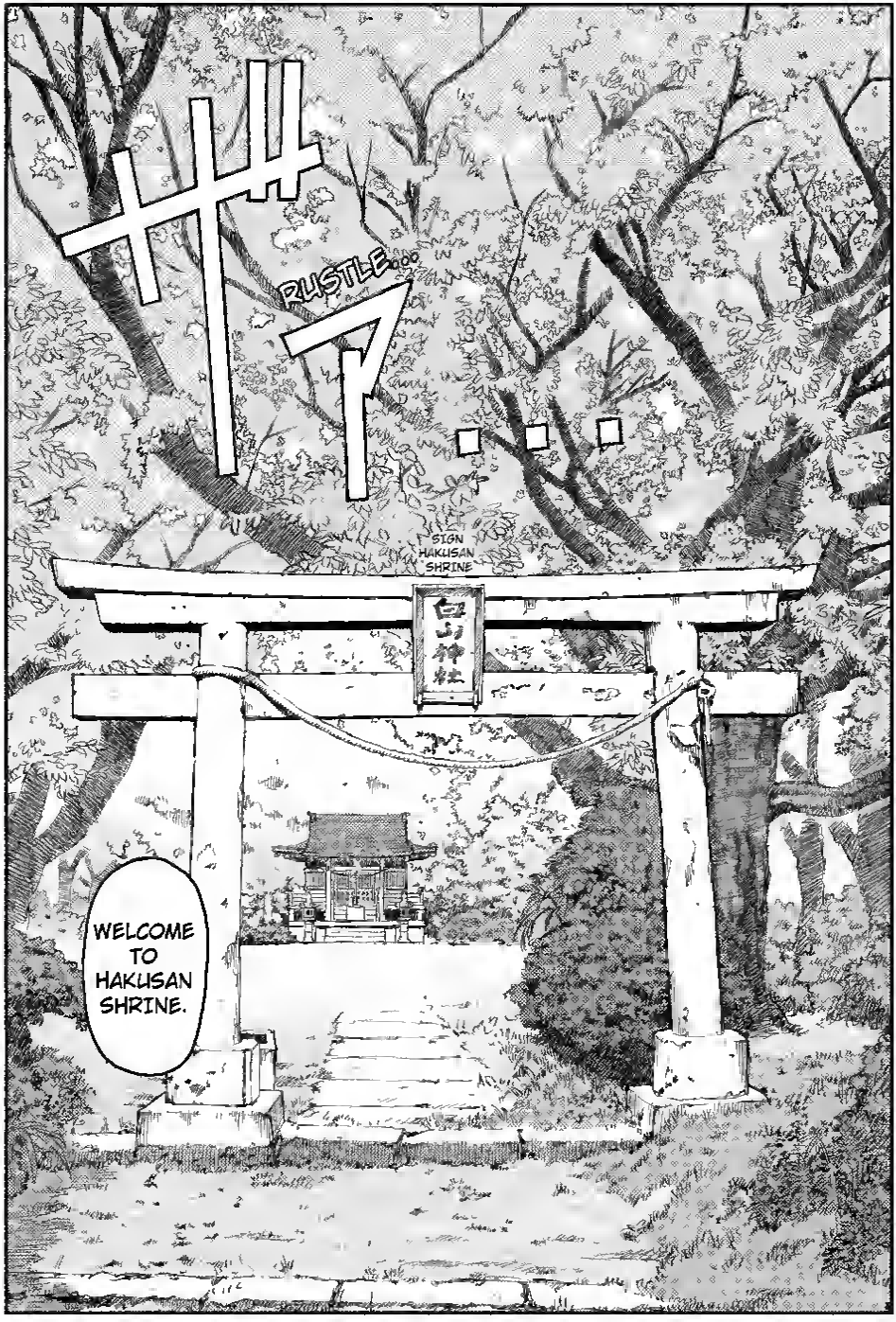

THEY WERE TAKEN TO A CERTAIN PLACE ..

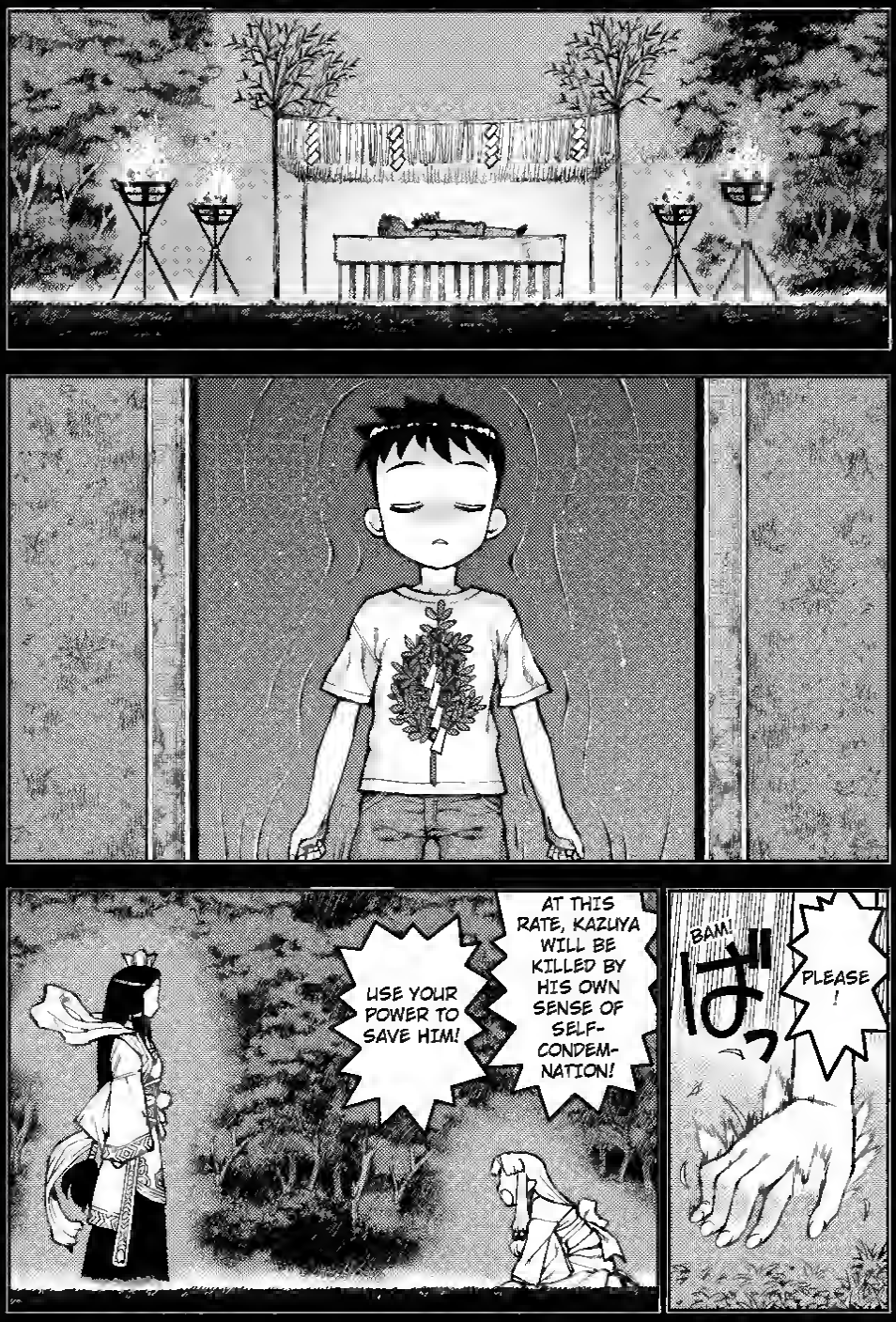

SLAM!!
THIS TIME, A MYSTERIOUS SHRINE MAIDEN HAS APPEARED

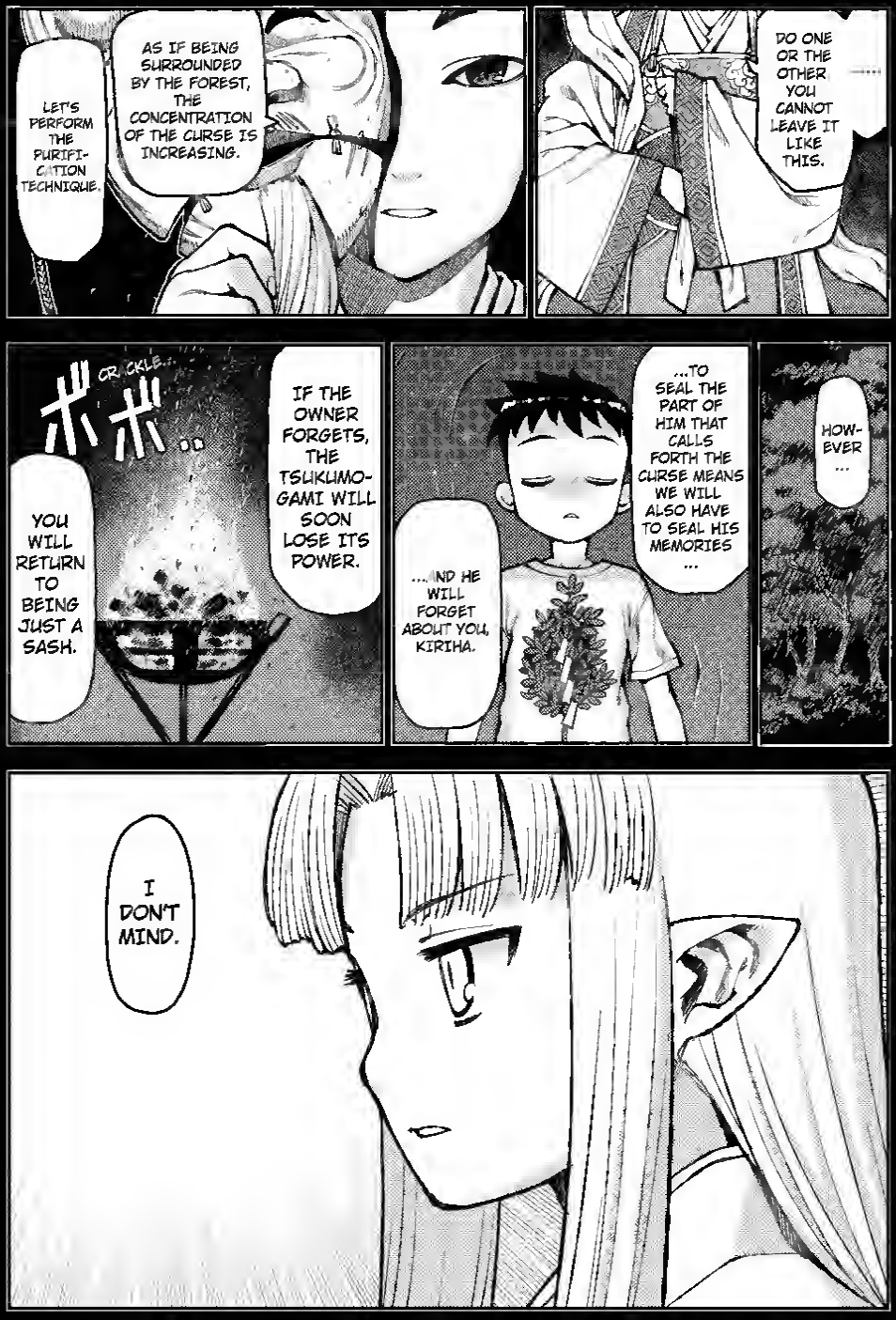

HE HAD A FAINT SENSE OF DEJA VU ...
THAT IS ..

CHAPTER 7 LOCAL SHRINE

第7話 鎮守




AT THIS RATE, KAZUYA WILL BE KILLED BY HIS OWN SENSE OF SELF-CONDEM-NATION!
USE YOUR POWER TO SAVE HIM!
BAM!
ばっ
PLEASE!


LET'S PERFORM THE PURIFI-CATION TECHNIQUE.
AS IF BEING SURROUNDED BY THE FOREST, THE CONCENTRATION OF THE CURSE IS INCREASING.
DO ONE OR THE OTHER ..... YOU CANNOT LEAVE IT LIKE THIS.
CR..CKLE...
IF THE OWNER FORGETS, THE TSUKUMO-GAMI WILL SOON LOSE ITS POWER.
YOU WILL RETURN TO BEING JUST A SASH.
...TO SEAL THE PART OF HIM THAT CALLS FORTH THE CURSE MEANS WE WILL ALSO HAVE TO SEAL HIS MEMORIES ...
...ND HE WILL FORGET ABOUT YOU, KIRIHA.
HOW-EVER ...
I DON'T MIND.

WOAH!
AND KAZUYA! DON'T WALK DOWN THE CENTER OF THE PATHWAY!
THE CENTER IS THE PATH OF THE GODS!
正中
CENTER (OF THE PATH)
YOU MAKE SO MUCH FUSS ABOUT THE SMALLEST THINGS, CHISATO.

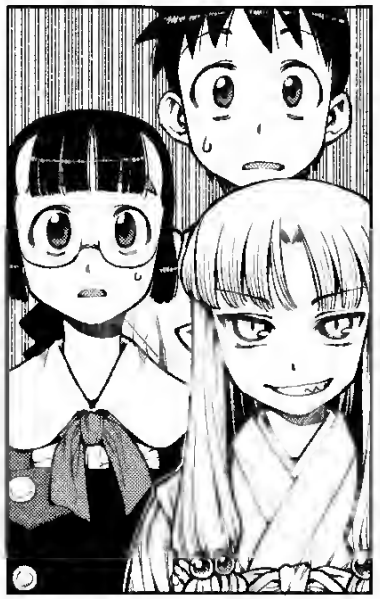
*TORII = SHRINE ENTRANCE GATEWAY
**CHOUZUYA = WATER BASIN FOR WASHING HANDS

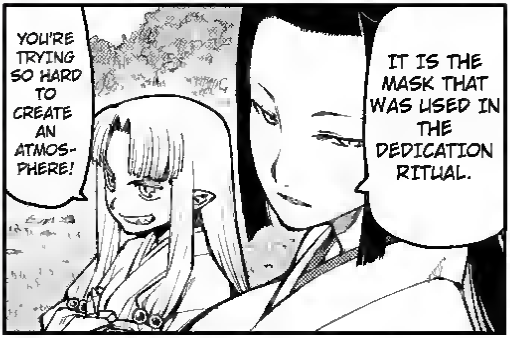
RUSTLE!
ばさっ
I WILL BECKON DOWN THE GODDESS.
YOU GUYS, BE QUIET!
YOU HONOR US WITH YOUR BLESSING, TO AID WE THAT DWELL IN THIS WORLD. FOR ALL FAMILIES WHO WISH FOR GOOD HEALTH, I PRAY, YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT.
I OFFER MYSELF TO YOU, HONORABLY AS I GAZE UPON YOUR SACRED DOMAIN RIGHTEOUS AND JUST, WITH THE UTMOST SINCERITY, I SEEK THE PATH OF TRUTH.
BLESSED ARE THEE, OH GODDESS. I OFFER MY PRAISE TO YOU, MOST SACRED ONE.
ARISE, OH GODDESS OF MERCY PRINCESS HAKUSAN. I HUMBLY CALL TO YOU, OUR REVERED MASTER!
NO, SHE'S HERE.
NOTHING'S HAPPENING
.....

SIGN: HAKUSAN SHRINE
HAKUSAN MYOURI DAIKGONGEN
THE GREAT GODDESS, PRINCESS KUKURI...
白山妙理大権現
菊理媛大神
HAS DESCENDED.
降神

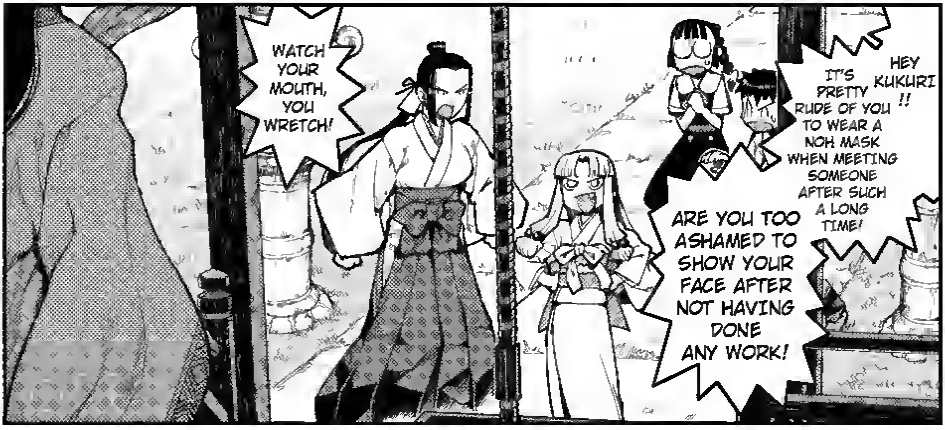
たんっ
SLIDE

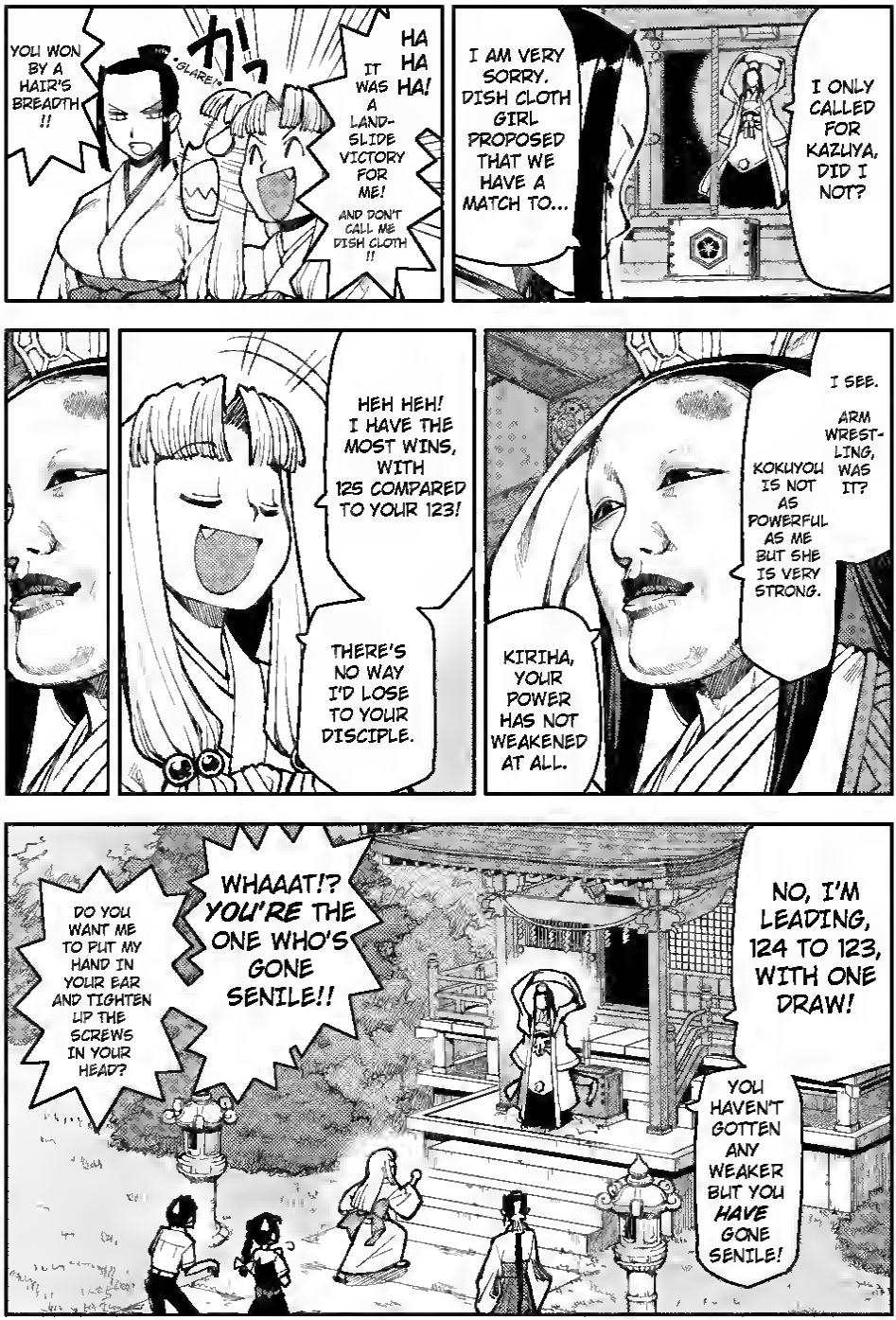
SHUP
す、





*NOH = AN ANCIENT FORM OF JAPANESE THEATER, USING MASKS


WATCH YOUR MOUTH, YOU WRETCH!
HEY KUKURI !!
IT'S PRETTY RUDE OF YOU TO WEAR A NOH MASK WHEN MEETING SOMEONE AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME!
ARE YOU TOO ASHAMED TO SHOW YOUR FACE AFTER NOT HAVING DONE ANY WORK!


YOU WON BY A HAIR'S BREADTH !!
GLARE!
HA HA HA!
IT WAS A LAND-SLIDE VICTORY FOR ME!
AND DON'T CALL ME DISH CLOTH !!
I AM VERY SORRY. DISH CLOTH GIRL PROPOSED THAT WE HAVE A MATCH TO...
I ONLY CALLED FOR KAZUYA, DID I NOT?
HEH HEH! I HAVE THE MOST WINS, WITH 125 COMPARED TO YOUR 123!
THERE'S NO WAY I'D LOSE TO YOUR DISCIPLE.
KIRIHA, YOUR POWER HAS NOT WEAKENED AT ALL.
KOKUYOU IS NOT AS POWERFUL AS ME BUT SHE IS VERY STRONG.
I SEE. ARM WREST-LING, WAS IT?
DO YOU WANT ME TO PUT MY HAND IN YOUR EAR AND TIGHTEN UP THE SCREWS IN YOUR HEAD?
WHAAAT!? *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO'S GONE SENILE!!
NO, I'M LEADING, 124 TO 123, WITH ONE DRAW!
YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY WEAKER BUT YOU *HAVE* GONE SENILE!

"OMINOUS ATMOSPHERE"
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN "ONE DRAW" !?
YOU'RE JUST MAKING THINGS UP!
IT STARTED POURING WITH RAIN RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MATCH AND WE HAD TO TAKE A WATER BREAK!
(LITERALLY!)
I ONLY CALLED FOR A DRAW BECAUSE I HAD ALL BUT WON!!
HA! SO, A LITTLE BIT OF RAIN IS THE REASON WHY YOU CALLED FOR A DRAW !?
THAT WAS AN EXCUSE YOU CAME UP WITH AFTER LOSING BY ONE HIT!
RUSTLE

ME? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ATTACKED ME AFTER I CALLED FOR A DRAW! YOU CHEAT!
BOOOM!!
AND YOU ARE THE ONE MAKING THINGS UP!
HOW DID ONE OF MY WINS BECOME A LOSS?

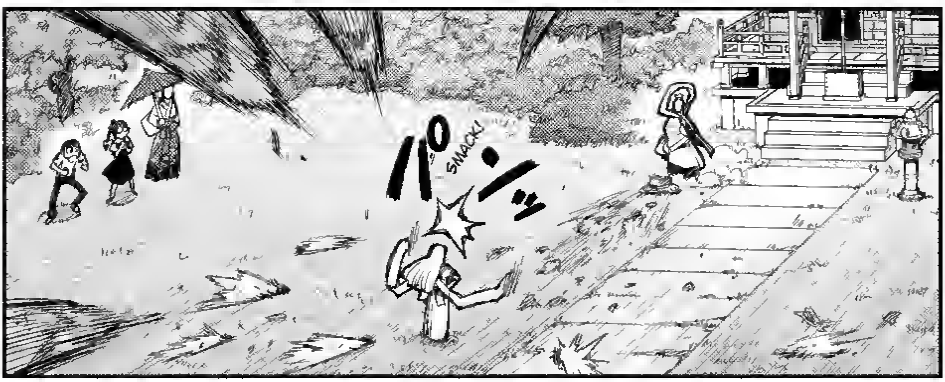
IT SEEMS LIKE I AM NOT GETTING THROUGH TO YOU WITH WORDS ALONE ...
HUFF
PUFF
SHUP!

HA HA! ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE TIME YOU WERE COMPLAINING THAT YOUR ATTACK WAS QUICKER THAN MINE!?
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT WAS MY WIN!
YOU IDIOT! HOW WAS THAT YOUR WIN? YOUR FIST NEVER EVEN REACHED ME!
HA HA HA! YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! THAT TIME ...
... ... !!
... ... !!
"RAINFALL"

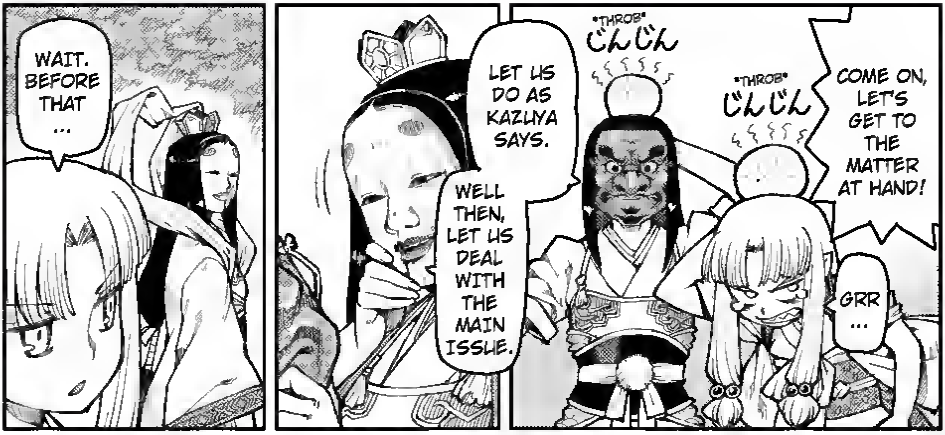
SHE GAINS BRUTE STRENGTH EQUAL TO A DEMON OR TENGU.
SWOOSH!!
BESHIMI ?
THAT'S BESHIMI !!
... IF SHE WEARS THAT, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
THAT IS SIMPLE.
THAT IS THE DEMONIC NOH MASK. IT IS USED TO SHOW TENGU* OR DEMONS FROM HELL.
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WITH AN UMBRELLA
TENGU = A TYPE OF JAPANESE MYTHICAL CREATURE
POW!!
HAH!

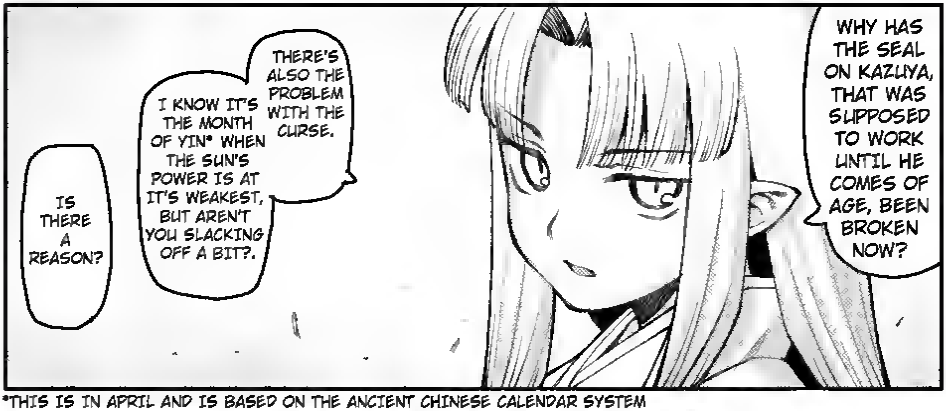
WHOOSH!!

BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!

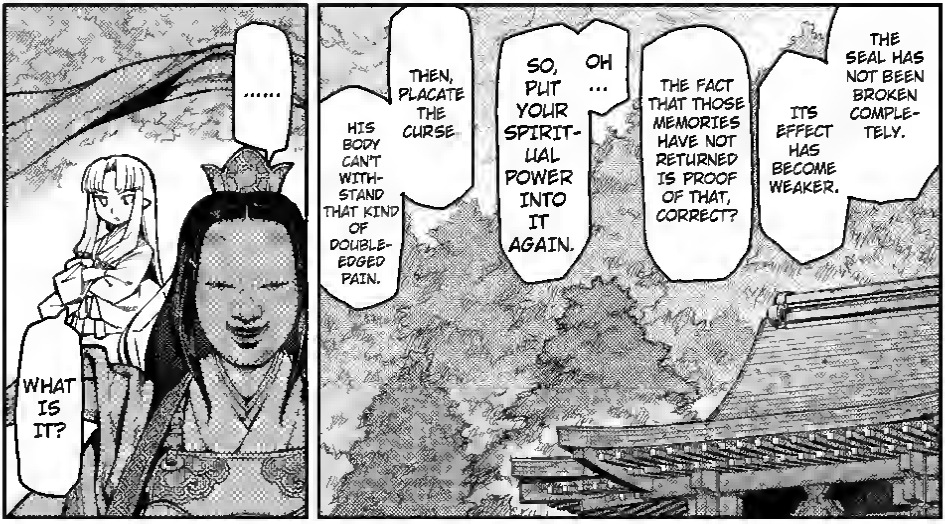

SMACK!

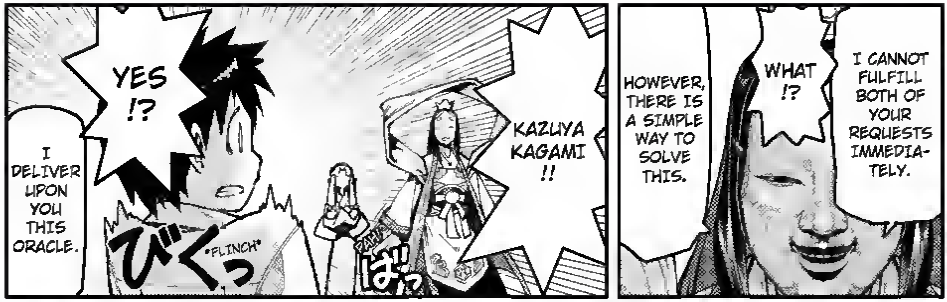
I ACCEPT.
HA!
YES, IT CERTAINLY IS ...
SHWP
PAH!
LET'S SETTLE THIS BY PROVING IT WITH OUR STRENGTH! THE OUTCOME IS OBVIOUS, HOWEVER ...
ひゅるるるるるるる....
"SOUND OF SOMETHING FALLING FROM ABOVE"
BAM!!
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE THAT I WOULD BE PUNISHED BY THE HEAVENS!! OUCH OUCH OUCH!
SH... SHUT UP!! OW OW OW!
YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT, DID YOU?
DO YOU SEE!? IT'S THE PUNISHMENT OF THE HEAVENS!!
OUCH !!

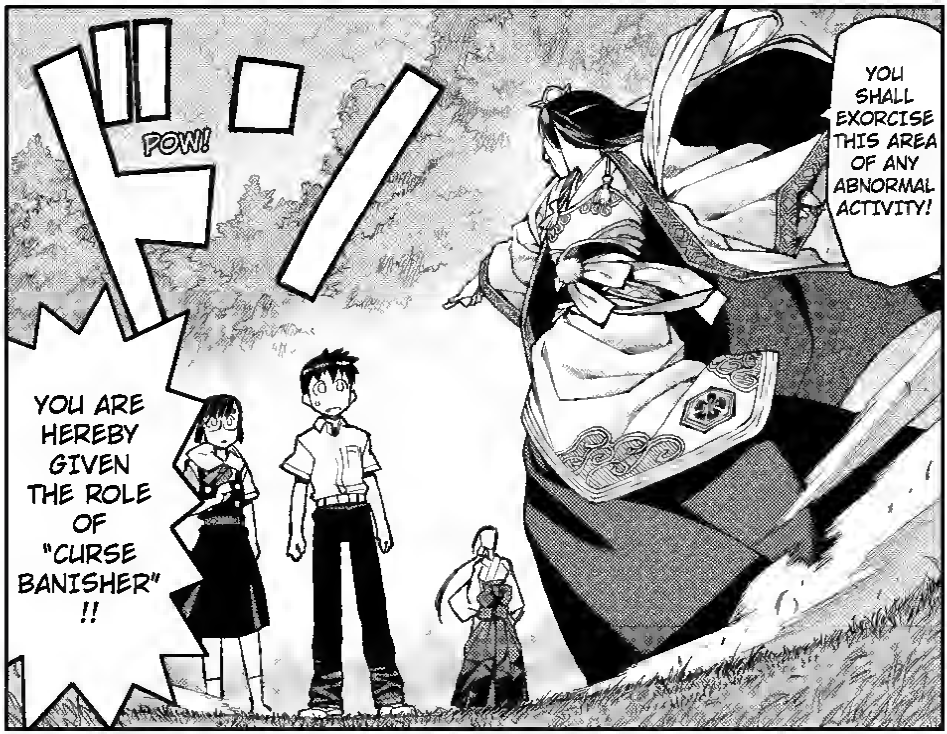

WAIT. BEFORE THAT ...
LET US DO AS KAZUYA SAYS.
WELL THEN, LET US DEAL WITH THE MAIN ISSUE.
THROB ごんごん
THROB ごんごん
COME ON, LET'S GET TO THE MATTER AT HAND!
GRR ...


IS THERE A REASON?
I KNOW IT'S THE MONTH OF YIN* WHEN THE SUN'S POWER IS AT IT'S WEAKEST, BUT AREN'T YOU SLACKING OFF A BIT?.
THERE'S ALSO THE PROBLEM WITH THE CURSE.
WHY HAS THE SEAL ON KAZUYA, THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO WORK UNTIL HE COMES OF AGE, BEEN BROKEN NOW?

*THIS IS IN APRIL AND IS BASED ON THE ANCIENT CHINESE CALENDAR SYSTEM

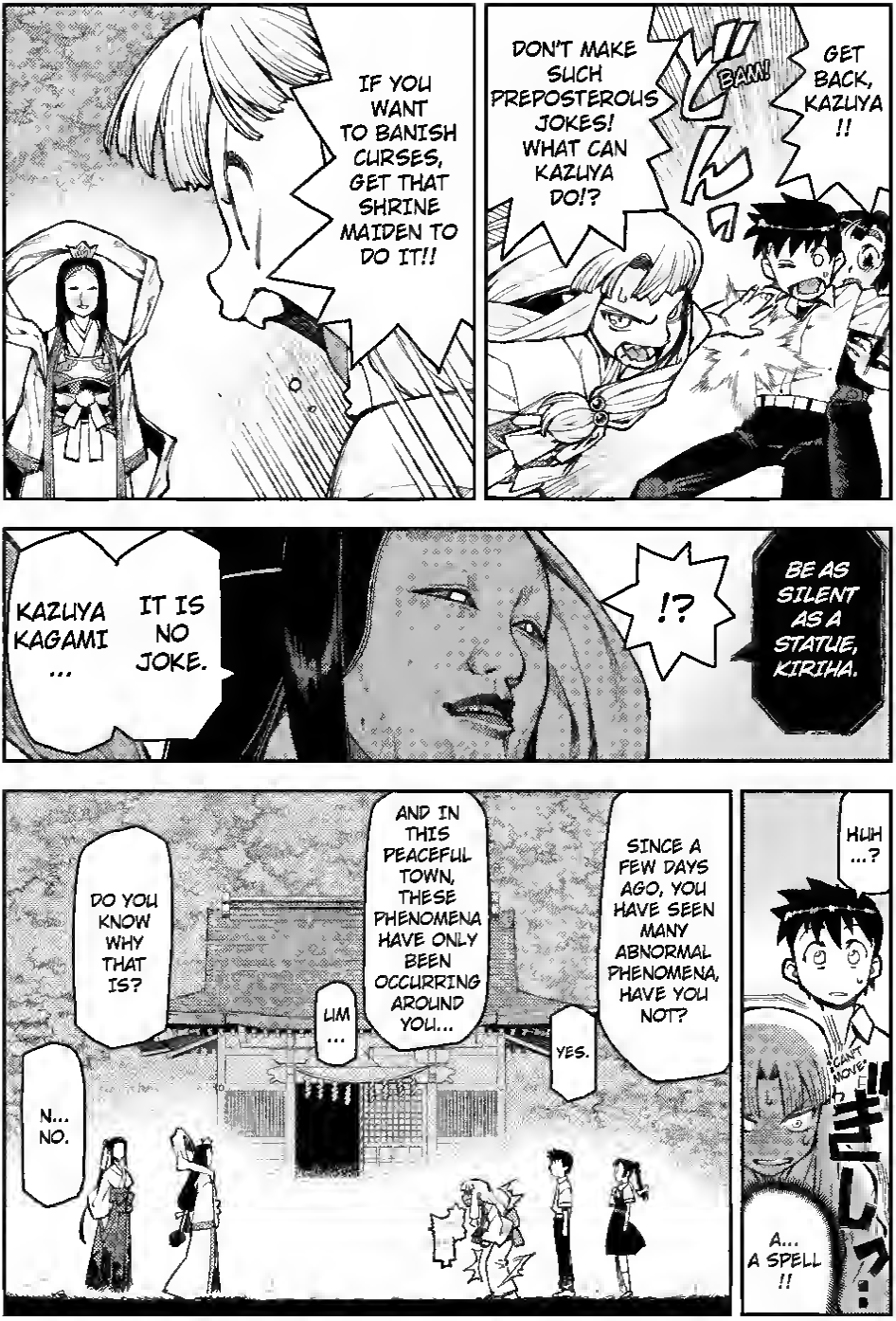

.....
WHAT IS IT?
THEN, PLACATE THE CURSE
HIS BODY CAN'T WITH-STAND THAT KIND OF DOUBLE-EDGED PAIN.
OH ...
SO, PUT YOUR SPIRIT-UAL POWER INTO IT AGAIN.
THE FACT THAT THOSE MEMORIES HAVE NOT RETURNED IS PROOF OF THAT, CORRECT?
ITS EFFECT HAS BECOME WEAKER.
THE SEAL HAS NOT BEEN BROKEN COMPLE-TELY.


I CANNOT FULFILL BOTH OF YOUR REQUESTS IMMEDIATELY.
WHAT !?
HOWEVER, THERE IS A SIMPLE WAY TO SOLVE THIS.
KAZUYA KAGAMI !!
YES !?
I DELIVER UPON YOU THIS ORACLE.
びくっ "FLINCH"
ばっ


YOU SHALL EXORCISE THIS AREA OF ANY ABNORMAL ACTIVITY!
POW!
YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN THE ROLE OF "CURSE BANISHER" !!

E-EXORCISE ABNORMAL ACTIVITY ?
ME ?
NOT KIRIHA ?

バカな!
THAT'S ABSURD !!


IF YOU WANT TO BANISH CURSES, GET THAT SHRINE MAIDEN TO DO IT!!
DON'T MAKE SUCH PREPOSTEROUS JOKES! WHAT CAN KAZUYA DO!?
BAM!
GET BACK, KAZUYA !!
KAZUYA KAGAMI ...
IT IS NO JOKE.
!?
BE AS SILENT AS A STATUE, KIRIHA.
DO YOU KNOW WHY THAT IS?
N... NO.
LIM ...
AND IN THIS PEACEFUL TOWN, THESE PHENOMENA HAVE ONLY BEEN OCCURRING AROUND YOU...
YES.
SINCE A FEW DAYS AGO, YOU HAVE SEEN MANY ABNORMAL PHENOMENA, HAVE YOU NOT?
HUH ...?
CAN'T MOVE!
きしゃ!
A... A SPELL !!

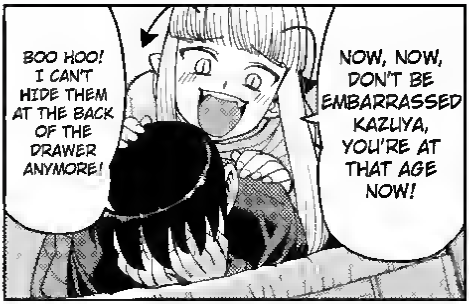
DON'T SAY IT, KUKURI !!
PON!!
YOU ARE THE SOURCE DRAWING OUT THE CURSE.
TO THE NORMAL PEOPLE LIVING IN THE NORMAL WORLD YOU ARE THE SEED OF MISFORTUNE.
IS THAT NOT LOGICAL ?
THE SOURCE OF THE CURSE ITSELF WILL BE THE THING TO BANISH ALL THE ABNOR-MALITIES.

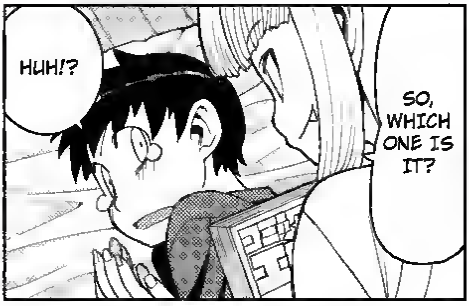
DON'T LISTEN TO HER, KAZUYA!
SHE'S TRYING TO MAKE YOU OBEY HER BY FEEDING YOU A BUNCH OF LIES!
BOTH OF YOU, WE'RE LEAVING !!
GAAH!!
CRACKLE!

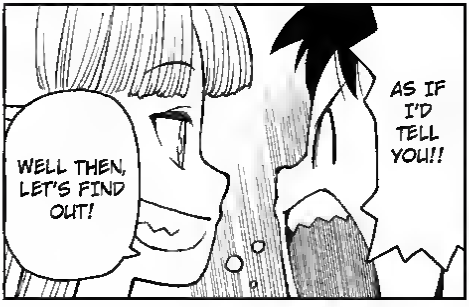
SHE'S TRYING TO TRAP US!
A BARRIER !!
CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE
バチバチバチバチバチバチ
I WILL NOT LET YOU GO UNTIL YOU GIVE THE ANSWER I WISH TO HEAR.
YOU MAY ONLY ENTER OR LEAVE HERE ACCORDING TO MY WILL.
THIS IS SACRED GROUND, SURROUNDED BY THE FOREST OF THE LOCAL SHRINE AND THE TORII.
OF COURSE!! JUST GIVE UP AND OPEN THE BARRIER!!
DO YOU REFUSE, NO MATTER WHAT?
WE'RE INSIDE THESE BOUNDARIES AND IN FRONT OF A GOD! IF WE SAY ANYTHING, IT WILL BE CONSIDERED AN UNBREAKABLE VOW!
WE MUSN'T !!
IF WE LIE AND SAY YES, SHE MIGHT LET US OUT...
WHISPER
ぼそ…
ギリ
GRITS TEETH

THAT MASK IS ...
ズロロ
SHUP
THEN THERE IS NO OTHER WAY...
WELL THEN WE SHOULD AT LEAST ...
...REMOVE THE SOURCE OF ALL OF THIS MIS-FORTUNE ...

FAVORITE







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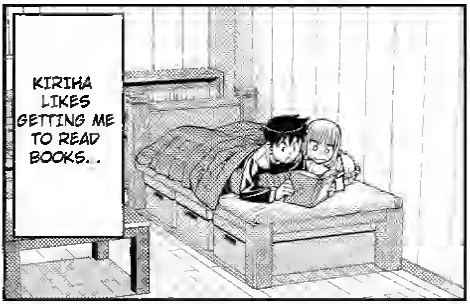
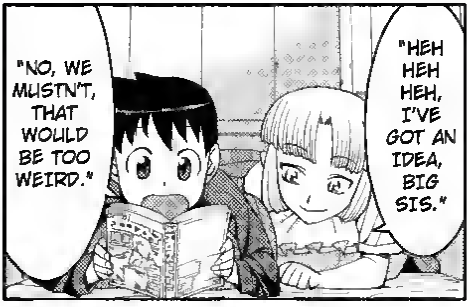
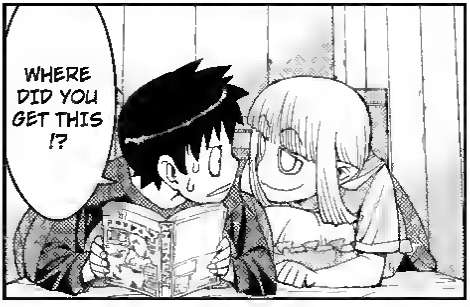
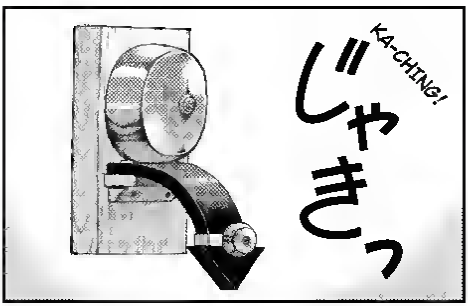
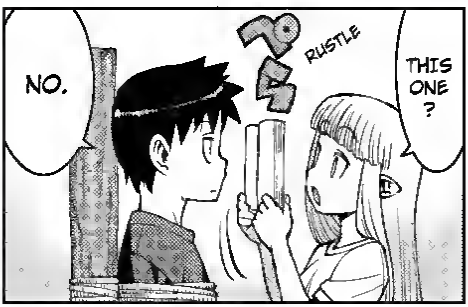


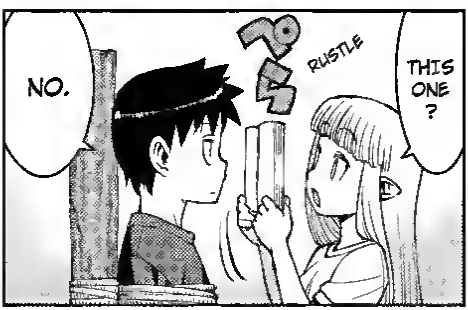


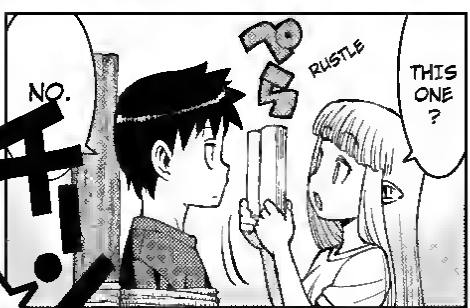


INVESTIGATION



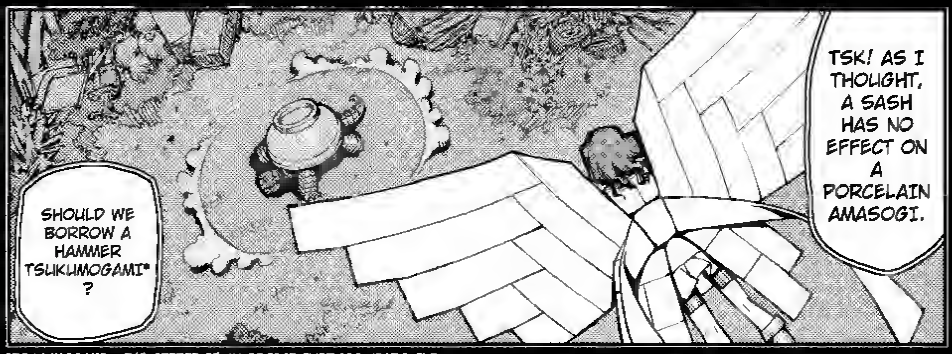




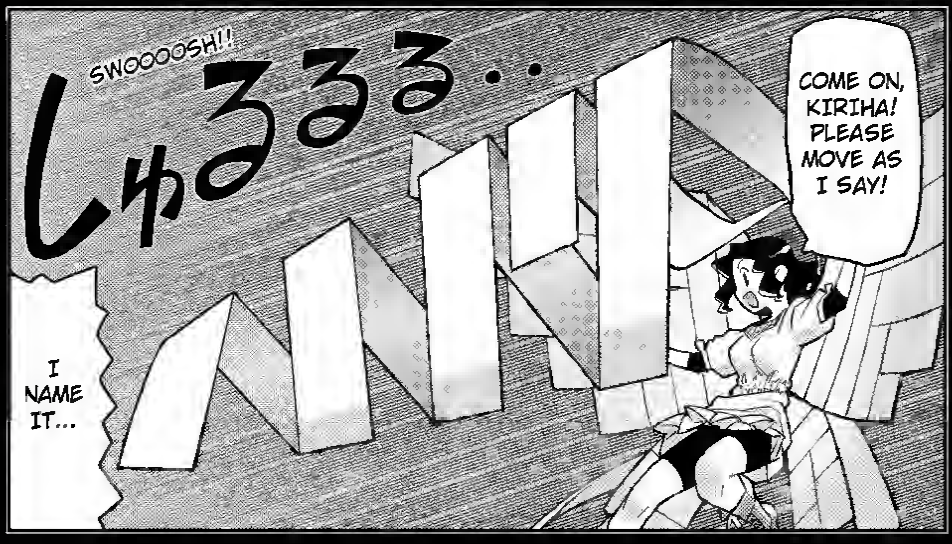


PAH!
PAH!
PAH!
PAH!
BAM!
SMASH!!
SWOOSH!

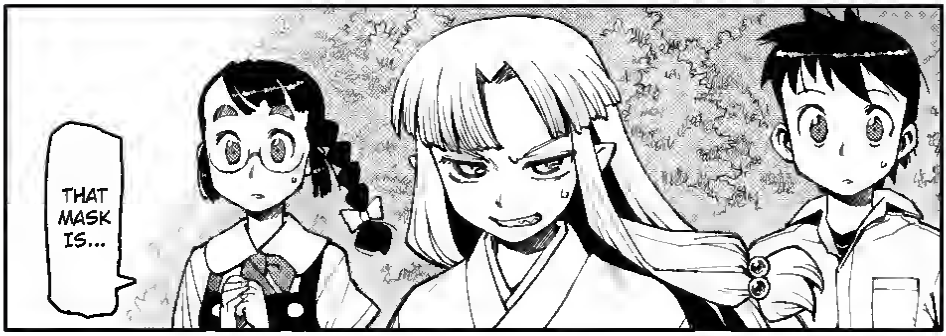
ぎゅーーん
WHOOSH!
ドゴゴ
SWISH!
ぱっ
PAAH!!



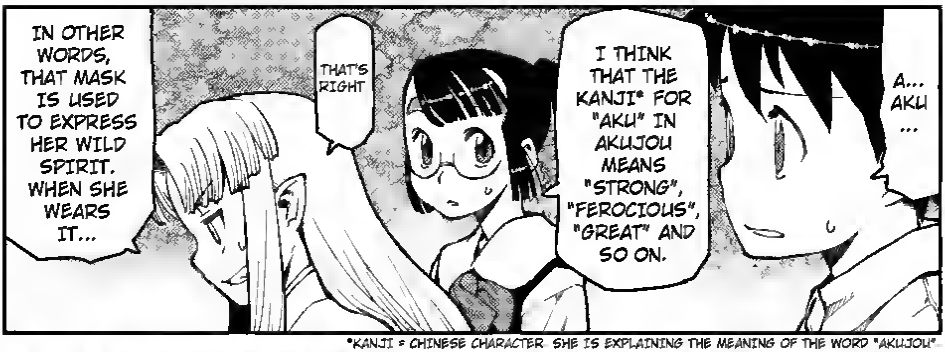
*TSUKUMOGAMI = THE SPIRIT OF AN OBJECT OVER 100 YEARS OLD



WHOOOOOSH...

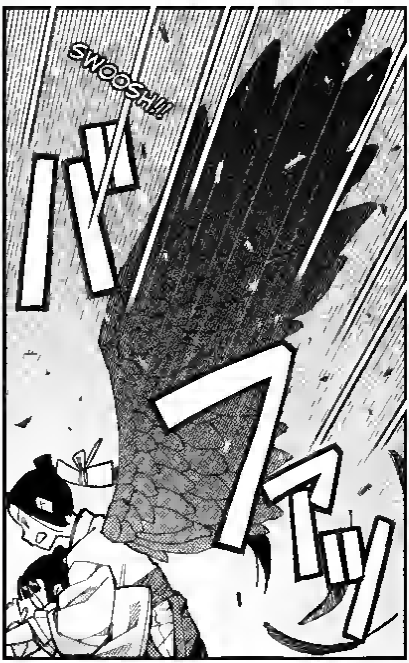


*AKUJOU = LITERALLY "EVIL OLD MAN"

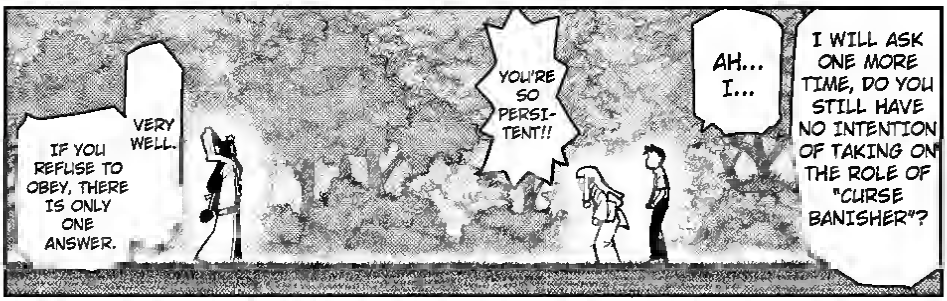

A... AKU ...
I THINK THAT THE KANJI* FOR "AKU" IN AKUJOU MEANS "STRONG", "FEROCIOUS", "GREAT" AND SO ON.
THAT'S RIGHT
IN OTHER WORDS, THAT MASK IS USED TO EXPRESS HER WILD SPIRIT. WHEN SHE WEARS IT...

*KANJI = CHINESE CHARACTER. SHE IS EXPLAINING THE MEANING OF THE WORD "AKUJOU".

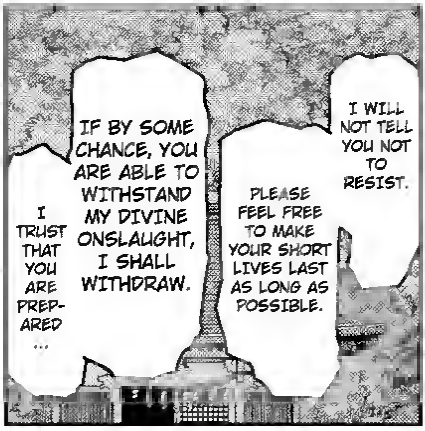
...SHE CAN WIELD A SAVAGE, DIVINE POWER!
DO YOU INTEND TO HARM YOUR PARISH-IONERS, KUKURI!?
WHOOSH...
ゴゴ...
OF COURSE
IT IS THEIR DUTY TO STUDY THE DIVINE, IN ADDITION, HE IS THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING CATASTROPHE UPON THIS LAND



HOW INSOLENT! THIS TO AVOID INVOLVING INNOCENT BYSTANDERS.
TAKING A HOSTAGE!? THAT'S A DIRTY TRICK!!
EEEEEEEEEK!!!
ばさっ
FLAP!
ばさっ
FLAP!
CHISATO !!


I WILL ASK ONE MORE TIME, DO YOU STILL HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING ON THE ROLE OF "CURSE BANISHER"?
AH... I...
YOU'RE SO PERSI-TENT!!
VERY WELL. IF YOU REFUSE TO OBEY, THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER.

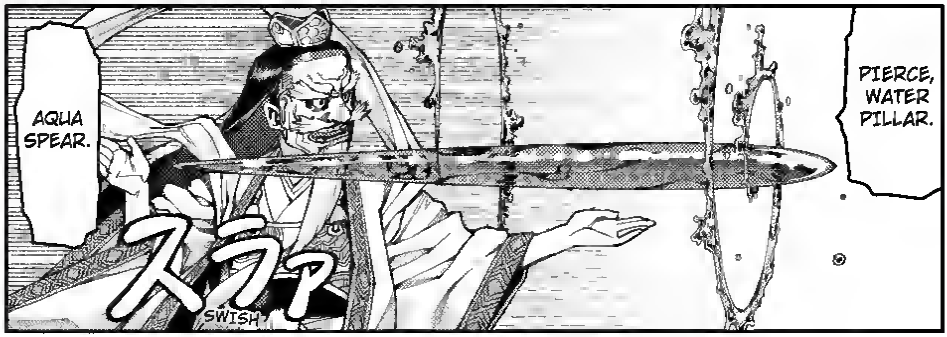
NOW, BEHOLD THE POWER OF THE WATER GODDESS, PRINCESS KUKURI!!


I WILL NOT TELL YOU NOT TO RESIST.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE YOUR SHORT LIVES LAST AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
IF BY SOME CHANCE, YOU ARE ABLE TO WITHSTAND MY DIVINE ONSLAUGHT, I SHALL WITHDRAW.
I TRUST THAT YOU ARE PREP-ARED ...

AQUA SPHERES.
DANCE, WATER DROPLETS.
ピッ
RIPPLE
スゥ
SPLISH...
YANK!
ERK!!

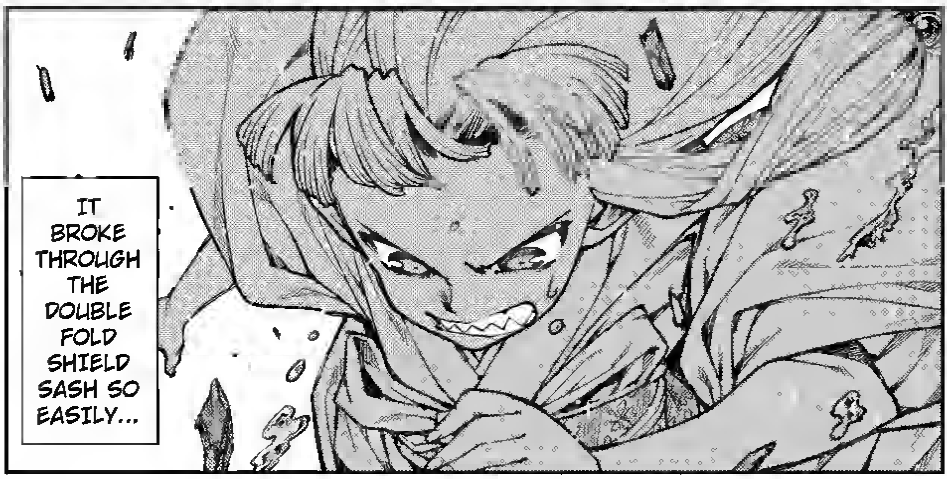
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
PAAH!!
SHIELD SASH !!

DA DA DA DA!!
HRNNNN .....


AQUA SPEAR.
PIERCE, WATER PILLAR.
SWISH

SHOOM!!
ばっ
PAAH!
!!
SHIELD SASH !!
ズバババッ
SHH-PAH!
PAH!
PAH!
DOUBLE FOLD SHIELD SASH!!!
ばばん!!!
PAAH!!!

BOOM!!

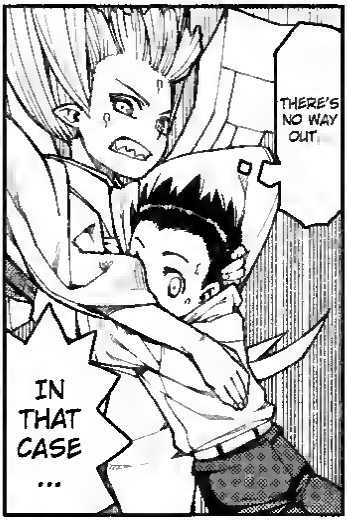

IT BROKE THROUGH THE DOUBLE FOLD SHIELD SASH SO EASILY...

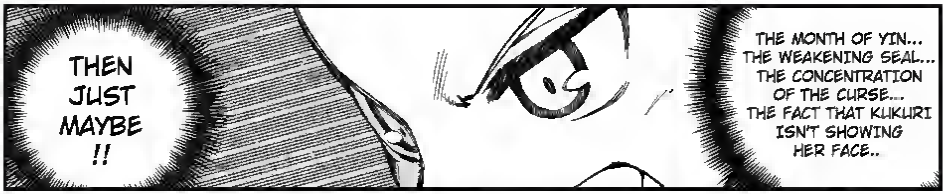
SHOOM!!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
SWOOP!
WING SASH !!
PAH!
FLAP!
FLAP!
SWOOP!
I CAN'T HOLD ON LIKE THIS ...

ACK!!
CRACKLE!

NOW, GET DOWN HERE SO WE CAN END THIS.
HOW FOOL-ISH.
DID YOU THINK THAT THE BARRIER ENDED IN MIDAIR?

WHOOSH!


THERE'S NO WAY OUT
IN THAT CASE ...

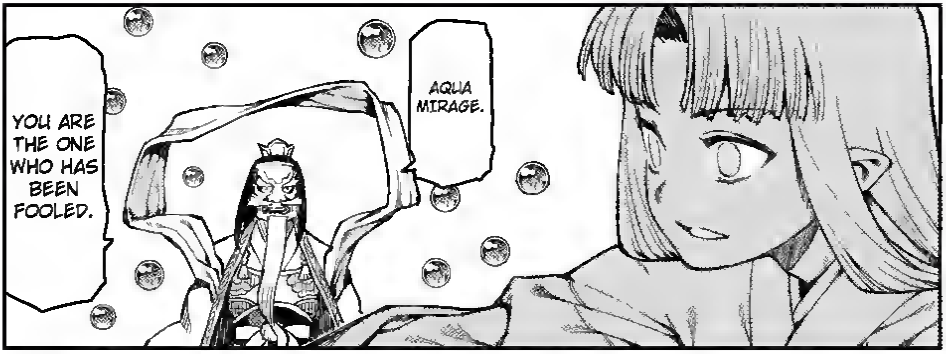

THEN JUST MAYBE !!
THE MONTH OF YIN... THE WEAKENING SEAL... THE CONCENTRATION OF THE CURSE... THE FACT THAT KUKURI ISN'T SHOWING HER FACE..

RISE ABOVE, WALL OF WATER.
AQUA BARRI-CADE.

SLEDGE-HAMMER SASH !!!
SHATTER!
PAH!

GIGANTIC FORM!!!
BOOOM!!

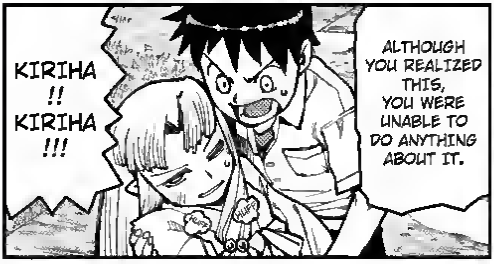
!!
DRILL!!
HAAAAAA!!
HOW WEAK ...
WITH MY AQUA BARRI-CADE AT THIS LEVEL...
YOU IDIOT!! THE SLEDGE-HAMMER WAS JUST A DECOY!!
DRILL !!
SCREW SASH !!
BWOOH!!
WHAT !!?

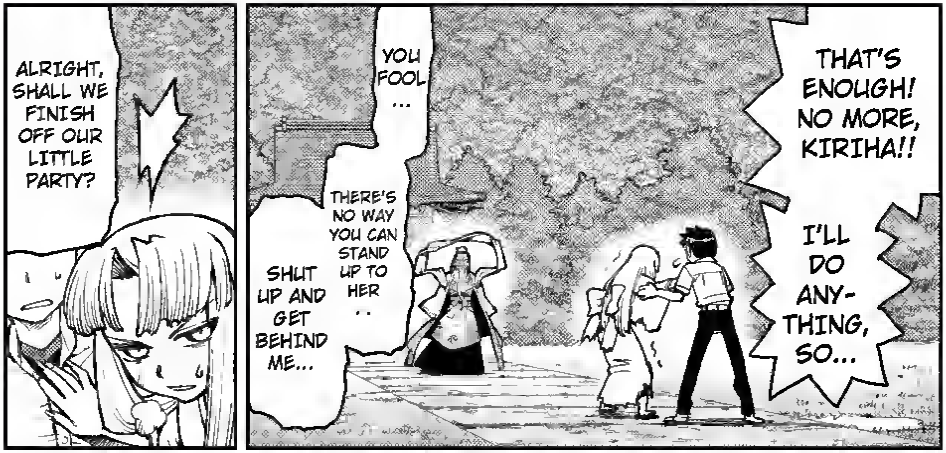

AQUA MIRAGE.
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN FOOLED.

CRASH!!
ドシャアッ

BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
ドガガガ
WHACK!

IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO AIM FOR MY NOH MASK.
AS YOU HAVE GUESSED, MY POWER CURRENTLY DEPENDS ON THIS MASK.


ALTHOUGH YOU REALIZED THIS, YOU WERE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
KIRIHA !! KIRIHA !!!

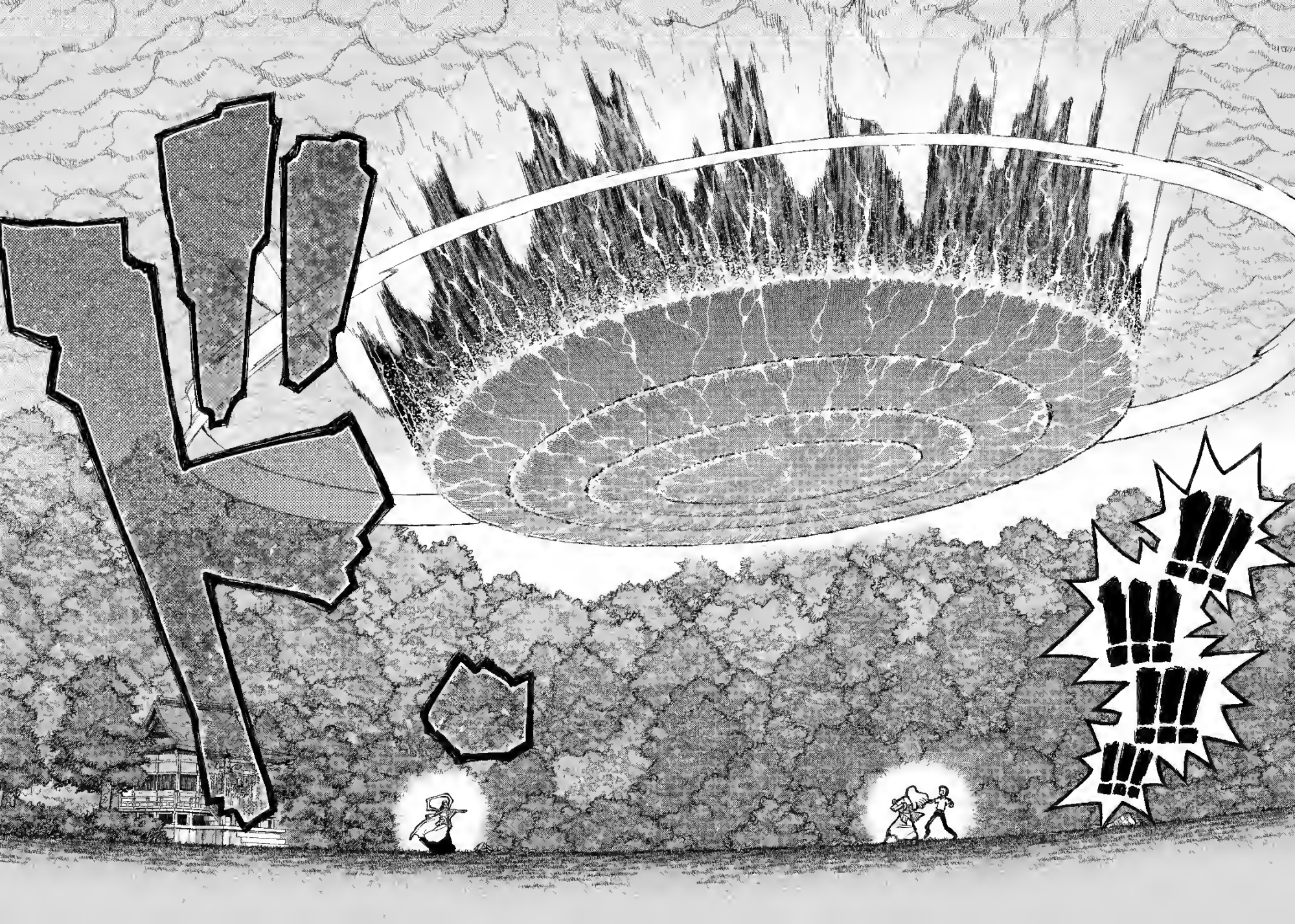

ALRIGHT, SHALL WE FINISH OFF OUR LITTLE PARTY?
YOU FOOL ...
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STAND UP TO HER ..
SHUT UP AND GET BEHIND ME...
THAT'S ENOUGH! NO MORE, KIRIHA!!
I'LL DO ANY-THING, SO...

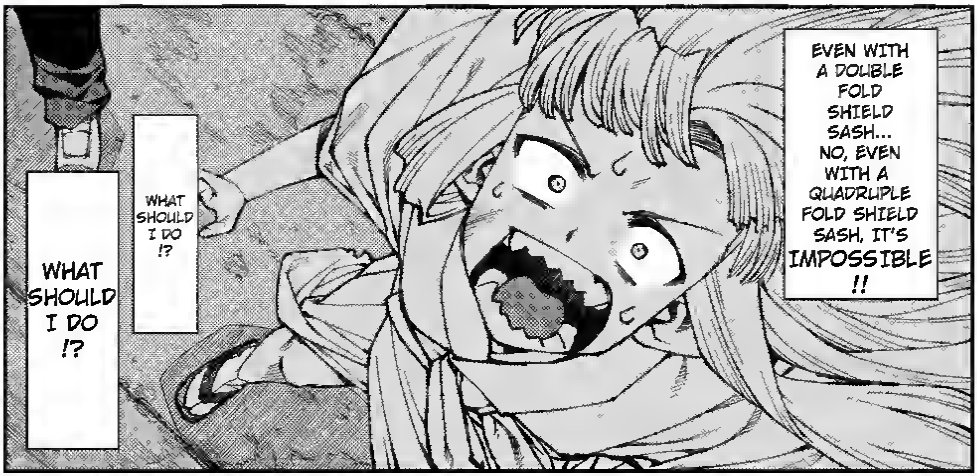
FROM THE STARS TO THE PEAKS OF THE MOUNTAINS ...
FROM THE FOOT OF THE HILL ...
RUSTLE...

I CALL UPON THE ALL-CONSUMING WATERS...
.... !!
THOSE ARE FORMAL INCAN-TATIONS!

IS THE GREAT WHIRL-POOL ...
BOUND TO THE WILD SKIES ...

AQUA BOMB.

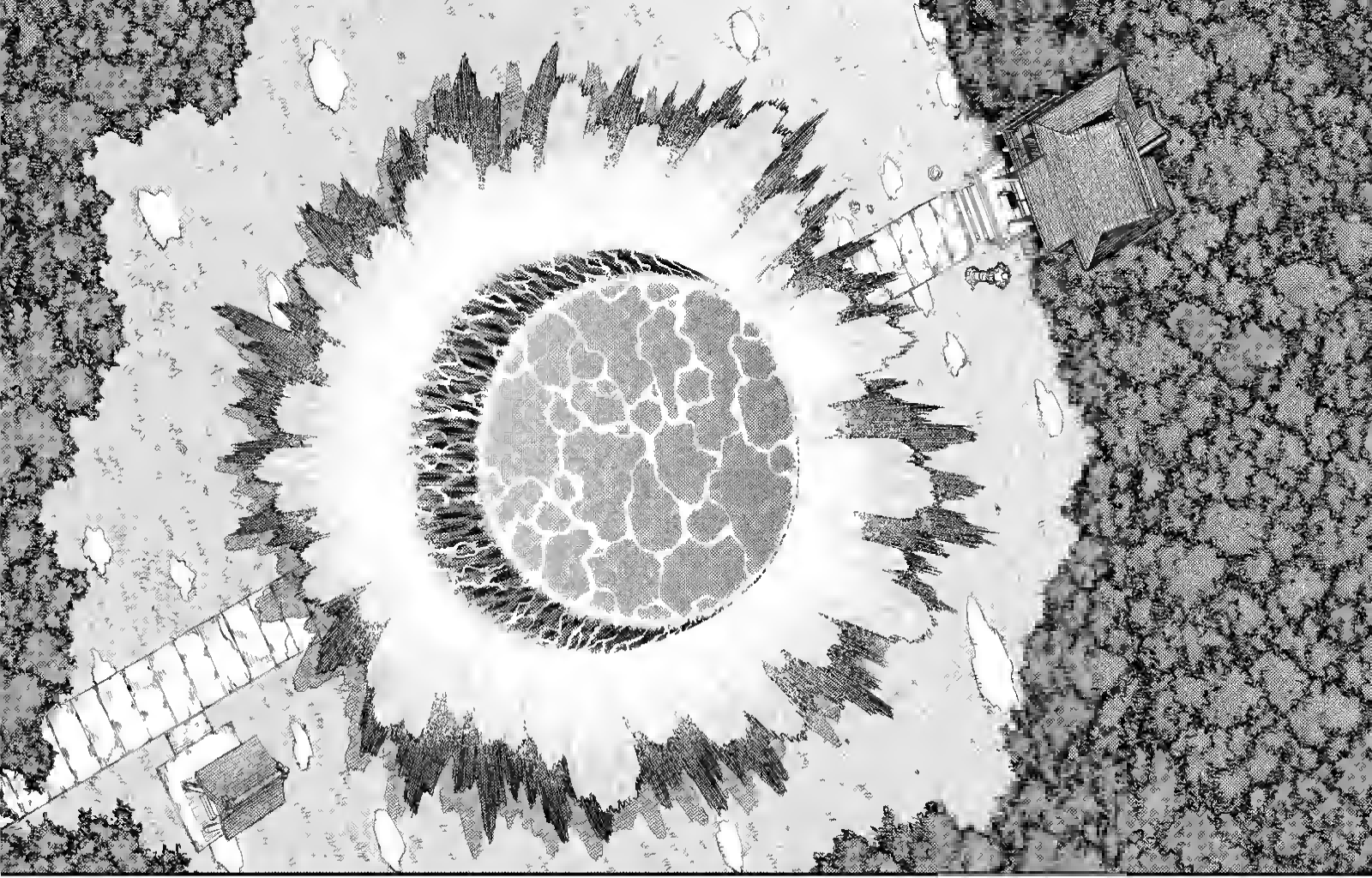



EVEN WITH A DOUBLE FOLD SHIELD SASH... NO, EVEN WITH A QUADRUPLE FOLD SHIELD SASH, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE !!
WHAT SHOULD I DO !?
WHAT SHOULD I DO !?

CAN YOUR FOLDING PAPER HOLD BACK THE GREAT FLOOD?

DAMMIT !!
PAH!
SHH-PAH!

オオオオ
CRAAAAAAASSH!!!
ばばばばばっ
PAH!
PAH!
PAH!
PAH!
PAH!

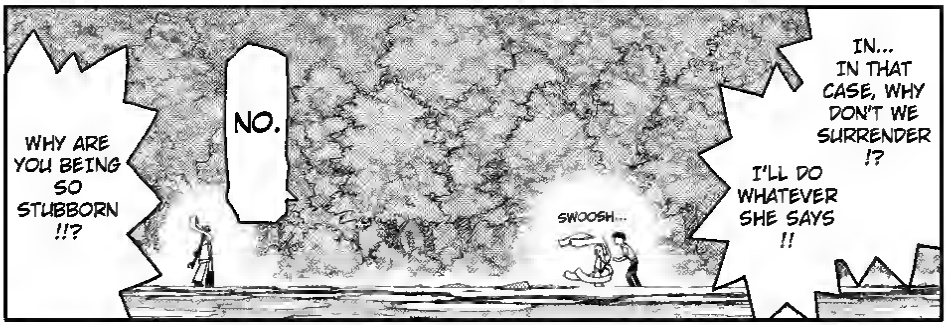


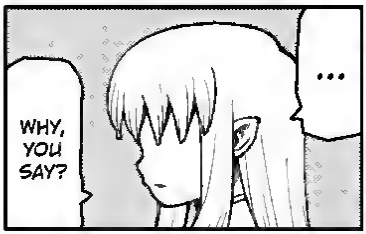
CRAAAASH!!!
ドパァ
SPLAAASH!!
RUMBLE...
ドドドドド...
SPLISH...
サアアア...

OH...
SURPRISE!
DID YOU SEE THAT, KUKURI?
THIS IS MY GREATEST DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUE.
FENCE SASH, INNER FORTRESS FORMATION !!

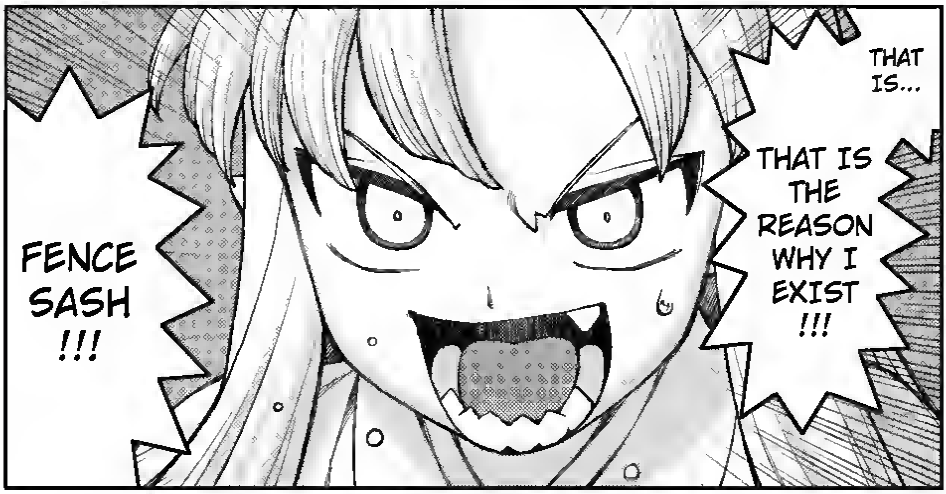
*THIS REFERS TO A JAPANESE MYTH ABOUT IZUMO YAEGAKI SHRINE, WHICH HAS EIGHT WALLS PROTECTING THE CENTER

HOWEVER, THAT TECHNIQUE SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN A HEAVY TOLL ON YOU.
I SEE. YOU MADE A DEFENSIVE FORMATION USING EIGHT LAYERS OF THE SASH*.
"INNER FORTRESS"?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BLOCK THE AQUA BOMB A SECOND TIME.
WILL YOU NOT CHANGE YOUR MIND?
ABSOLUTELY NOT!!
ぼん!!!
SURPISE!
FROM THE FOOT OF THE HILL ...
BUT THAT'S ...!!
THERE'S NO POINT IN YOU DYING.
IF I AM DEFEATED, YOU MUST OBEY KUKURI.
すっく
GLOOMY
KIRIHA !!
KAZUYA


IN... IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T WE SURRENDER !?
I'LL DO WHATEVER SHE SAYS !!
SWOOSH...
NO.
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO STUBBORN !!?

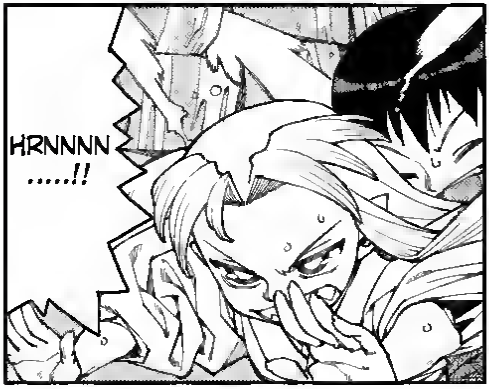

...
WHY, YOU SAY?

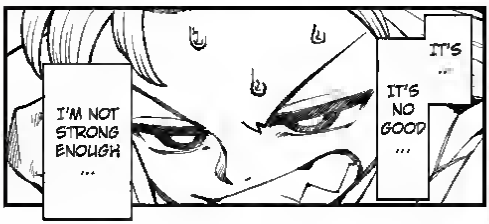
I CALL UPON THE ALL-CONSUMING WATERS...

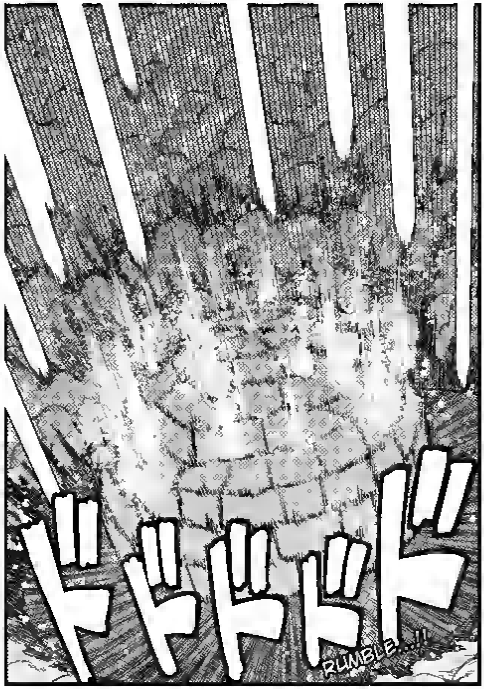

THAT IS...
THAT IS THE REASON WHY I EXIST !!!
FENCE SASH !!!

AQUA BOMB.

ゴゴゴゴ
CRAAAAASH!!!

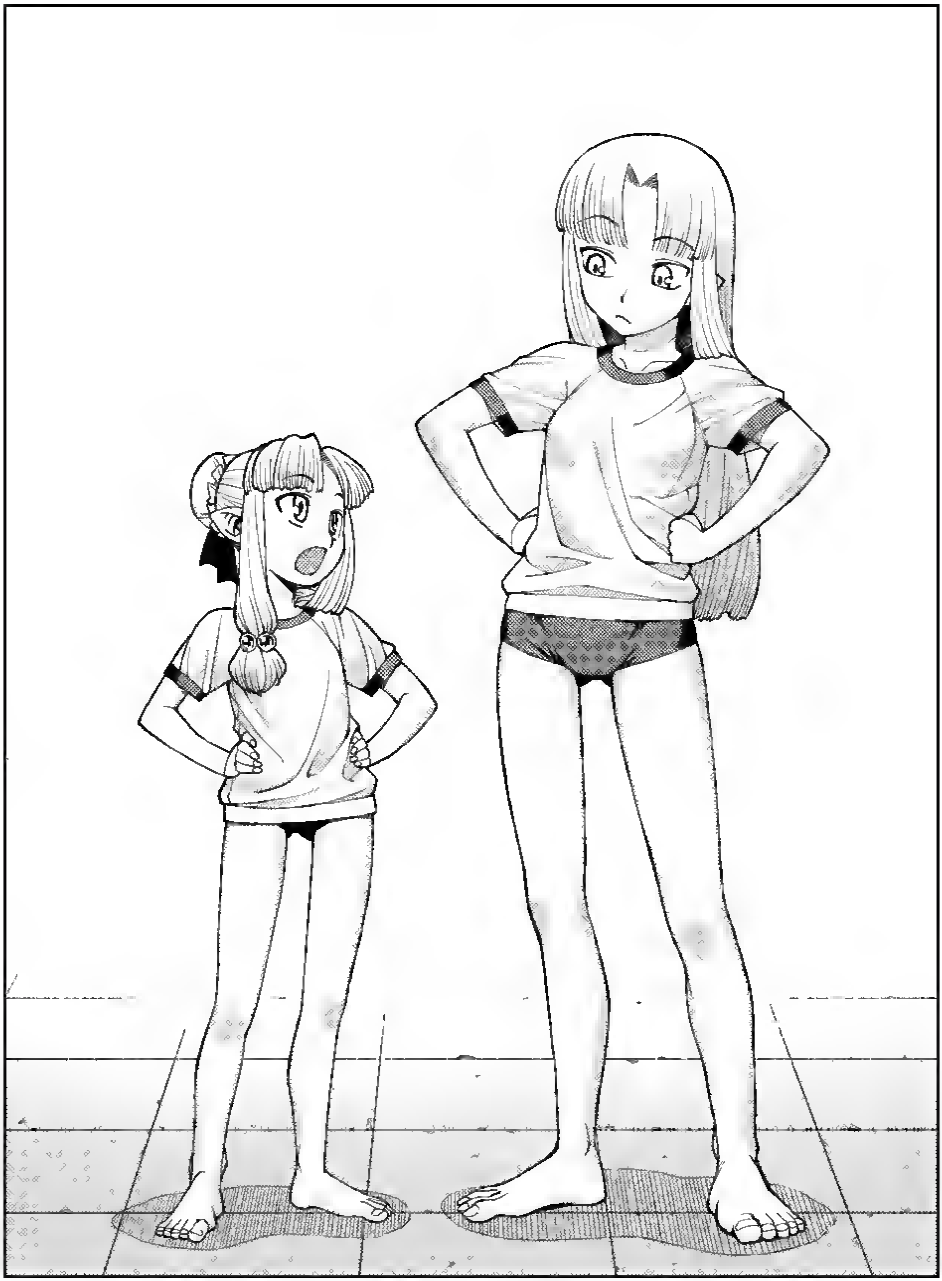

HRNNNN
.....!!


I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH ...
IT'S NO GOOD ...
IT'S ...


ドドドドド
RUMBLE...!!

I'M SORRY ...
KANAKA ...
OUR PRO-MISE ...
K... KIRIHA !!
ドパッ
SPLASH!!!
WOAH!!
GLUG ...

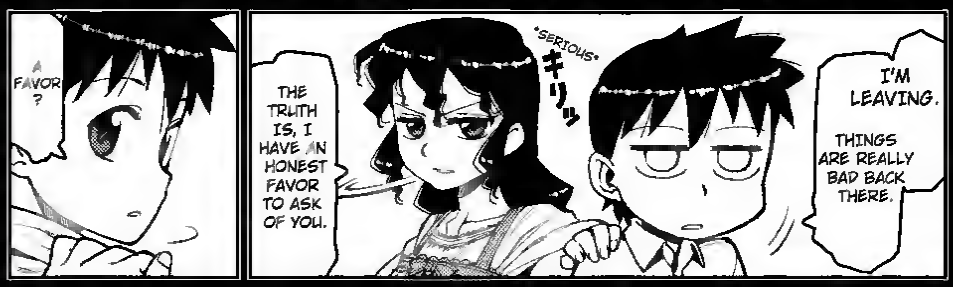
BEFORE AND AFTER



Chapter 9: Water Splitter

HEY ...!
HEY ...!
HUH ?
HEY THERE !!
SUDDENLY APPEARS
HUH? WHERE AM I? AND WHO ARE YOU ?
I KNOW WE WERE FIGHTING A GODDESS AND I GOT SWALLOWED UP BY THE WATER...
HEE HEE HEE !!
IT'S PRETTY BAD, ISN'T IT, THAT AQUA BOMB? KUKURI SURE IS MERCILESS!!
EVEN SO, KIRIHA WAS PRETTY RECKLESS ...
GOING UP AGAINST A WATER GODDESS ...
SHE REALLY WAS UP THE CREEK WITHOUT A PADDLE...
HEH, JUST KIDDING!

HA HA HA !!!
HEE HEE HEE !!
HEH HEH HEH !!
HO HO HO !!


A FAVOR ?
THE TRUTH IS, I HAVE AN HONEST FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.
"SERIOUS"
I'M LEAVING.
THINGS ARE REALLY BAD BACK THERE.

NO, NO.
SHE IS BEING HELD BY A CERTAIN TYPE OF BURDEN. I WANT YOU TO RELEASE HER FROM THAT.
ME? SAVE KIRIHA? FROM THAT GODDESS ?

SAVE KIRIHA.
HUH ?

WHAT KIND OF BURDEN? WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HEE HEE! THAT'S SIMPLE !!

TH... THAT'S CRAZY ...
IT'S NOT CRAZY !!
ANYWAY, I'LL TEACH YOU A METHOD TO ESCAPE FROM THIS DANGEROUS SITUATION WITH YOUR OWN POWER!!

BECOME STRONGER !!!
STRONG ENOUGH THAT YOU CAN PROTECT HER INSTEAD OF HER PROTECTING YOU!
ビシィッ
SHWP!

UMMM... SECRET SPECIAL MOVE... AND THEN... HUH? HER REAL NAME?
YES !!
THAT'S HOW IT GOES!
TO YOU, GOOD LUCK! GOOD LUCK TO YOU!

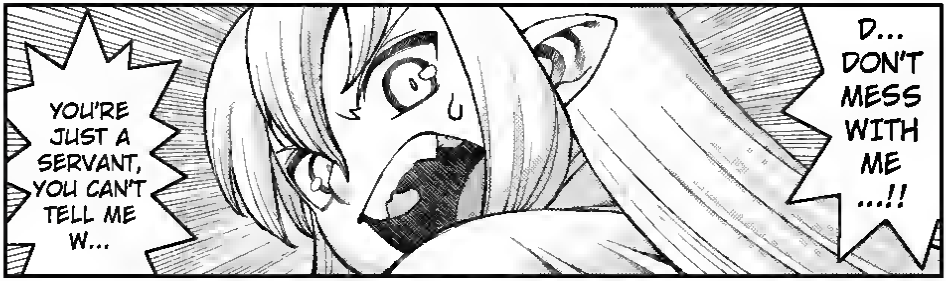
WA... WA... WAIT A MINUTE !!
KIRIHA'S REAL NAME!?

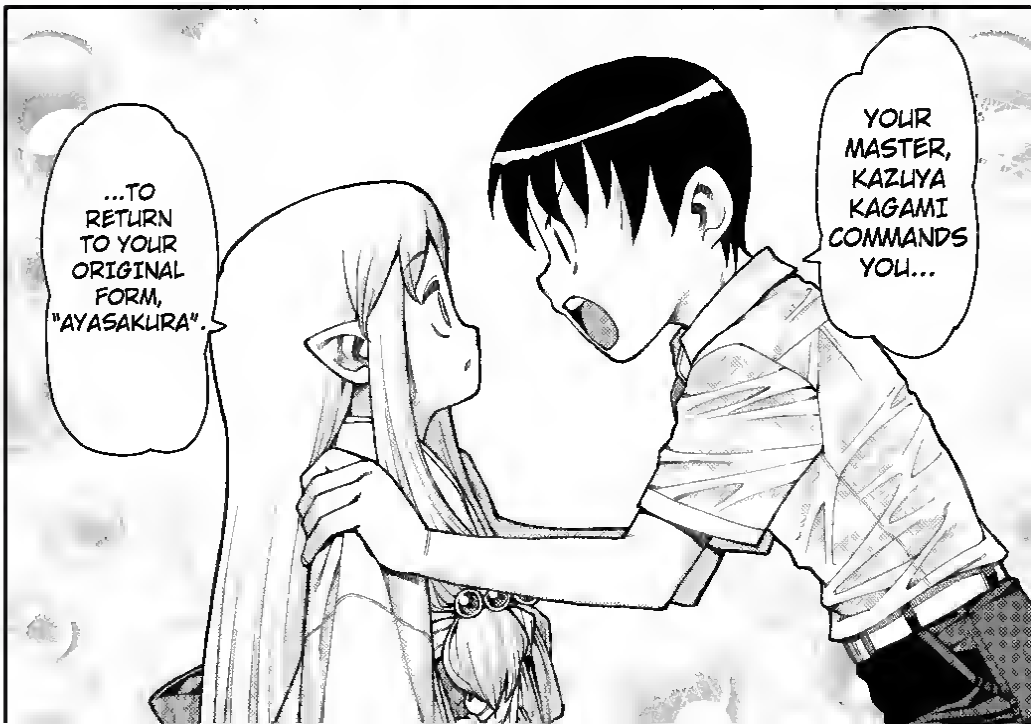
YOU SHOULD KNOW IT ALREADY
DO YOUR BEST ... KAZUYA

!!!
ゴポポポ
GLUG GLUG GLUG
HMM?
YOU'VE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS KAZUYA!
YOU HAD ME WORRIED THERE...
ザパッ
SPLASH!
WOAH!!
HOWEVER, THERE IS NO TIME FOR YOU TO REST.
YOU TWO ARE AS STUBBORN AS COCKROACHES.

KIRIHA, YOU CAN'T FIGHT ALONE ANY LONGER, CAN YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU ...
!?
RETURN TO THE FORM OF A SASH, KIRIHA, THEN I WILL USE YOU!!

WAIT !!
GRR !!
SHIELD SA-
SPLASH!


YOU'RE JUST A SERVANT, YOU CAN'T TELL ME W...
D... DON'T MESS WITH ME ...!!


...TO RETURN TO YOUR ORIGINAL FORM, "AYASAKURA".
YOUR MASTER, KAZUYA KAGAMI COMMANDS YOU...

ボフッ
PUFF!

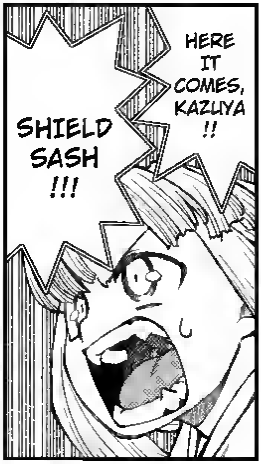
んガーッ
ROAR...!!
THIS TIME, YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT KUKURI HEAD TO HEAD!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING !!?
W... WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO USE MY REAL NAME!?
OH ...

YEAH !!
LET'S FIGHT TOGE-THER!!
Y... YOU FOOL!
BUT KIRIHA, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY POWER LEFT, DO YOU?
D... DO YOU HAVE A PLAN ?
....!!
I DO !!
THEN THERE'S NO OTHER WAY ...

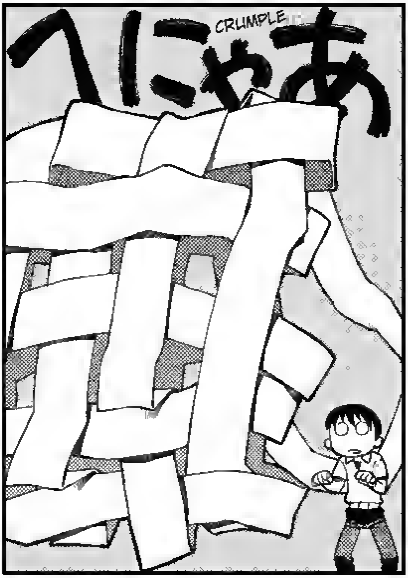
するる…
SWOOSH...
AN IMPROMPTU PLAN
AND SUCH PRETENSION
DO YOU REALLY EXPECT IT TO WORK?

AQUA SPHERES.
POW!!

PAAH!!
SH...
SHIELD SASH !!

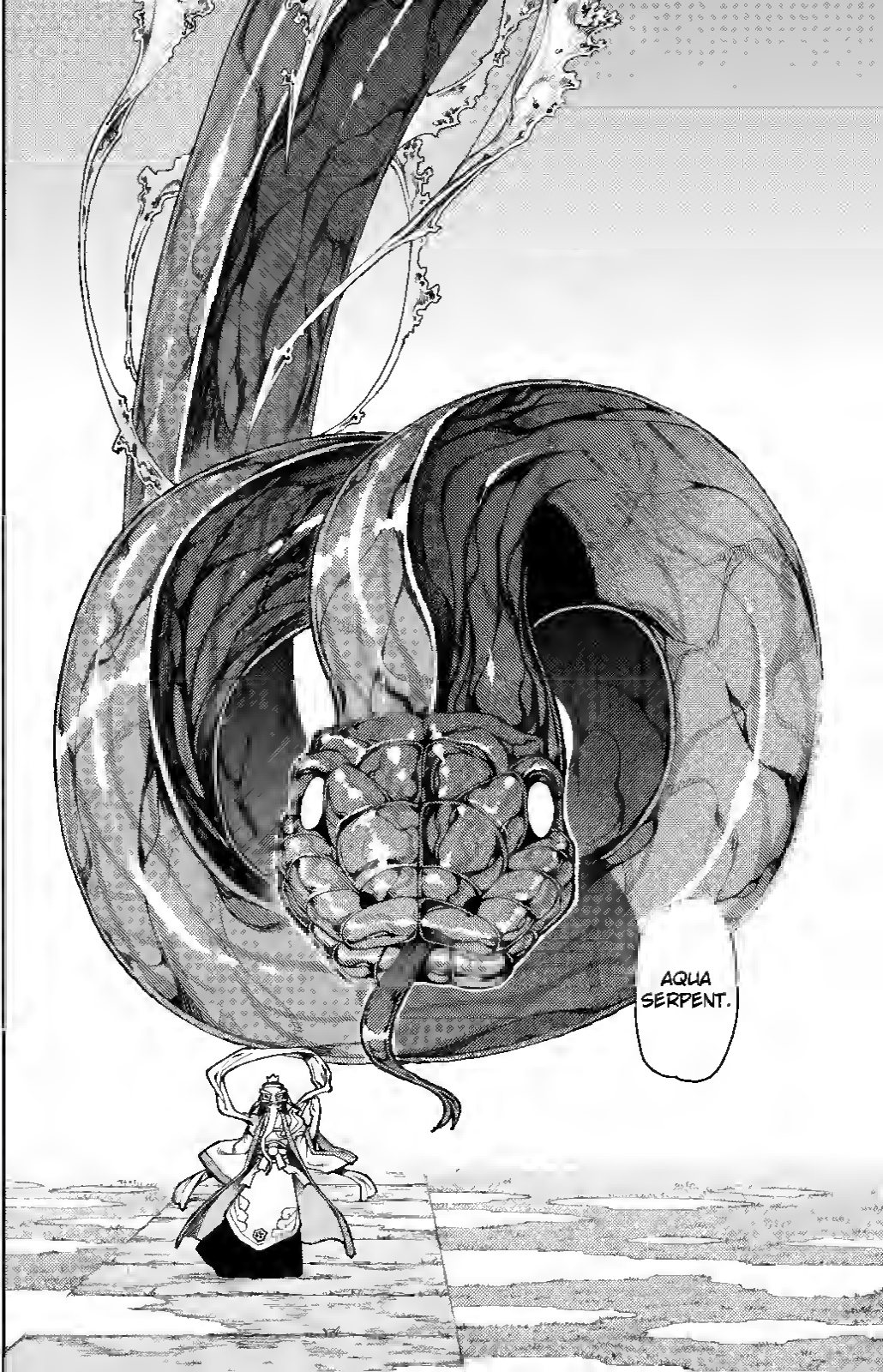

HERE IT COMES, KAZUYA !!
SHIELD SASH !!!

SPLASH!!
ARGH!!
だあっ


CRUMPLE
へにゃあ

SPIN
AQUA WHEEL
HUH?
SMACK!
LET ME TAKE OVER!!
THAT WAS COMPLE-TELY HOPELESS !!!
SMACK!
I... I'LL DO IT BETTER NEXT TIME!
SMACK!
WHOOSH!!
!!
WOW!
WHAT!?
SPIN
SMASH!!

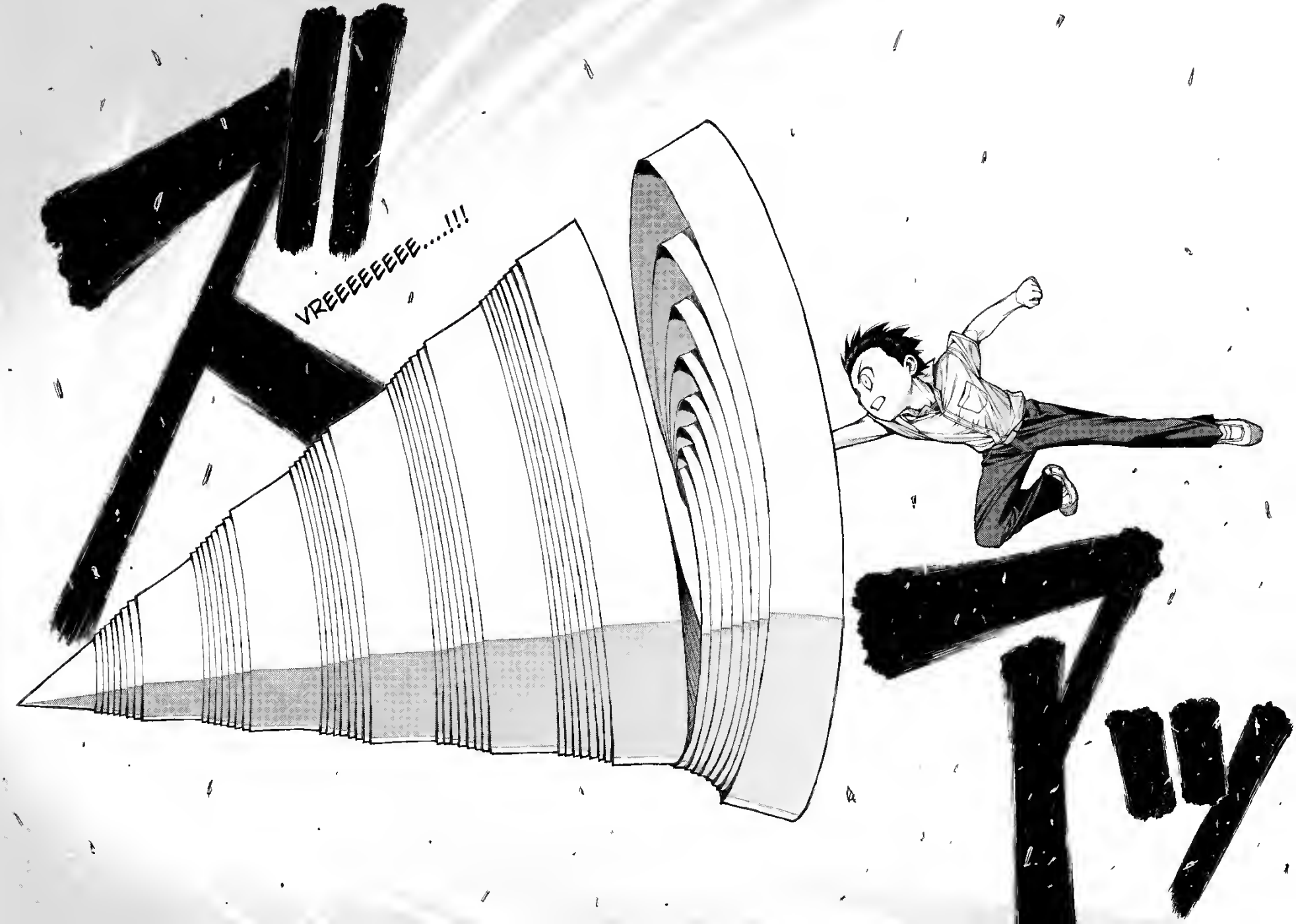
WELL THEN, THE NEXT ONE IS A SPECIALTY OF MINE.
THAT WAS RATHER GOOD.
CLAP CLAP
パン パン
DID YOU SEE THAT, KUKURI !?
THAT IS KAZUYA'S TRUE POWER!!
HUFF PUFF
SHE'S GOING TO USE ANOTHER POWERFUL TECHNIQUE !!
BUT IF WE CAN'T OVERCOME THIS, THAT'LL BE THE END OF US!!
AND FROM THERE APPEARED THE SERPENT OF THE RIVER SIDE
RUMBLE!!
ドゴッ
SHOW US, KAZUYA! SHOW US YOUR SASH CONTROL !!
I WILL !!
FROM THE FOOT OF THE HILL FROM THE STAIRS TO THE PEAKS OF THE MOUNTAINS
I CALL UPON THE ALL-CONSUMING WATERS
SHOOOM...
ズズズ・・・


AQUA SERPENT.

!!!
SHOOM!!
THIS IS BAD!!
QUICK, GET OUT OF HERE!
KUKURI WILL DEFINITELY USE A WATER SNAKE FOR THE FINISHING BLOW.
WHEN SHE DOES, YOU CAN BLOCK IT LIKE THIS ..
WHAT THE ...!?
SHIELD SASH !!
PAAH!!

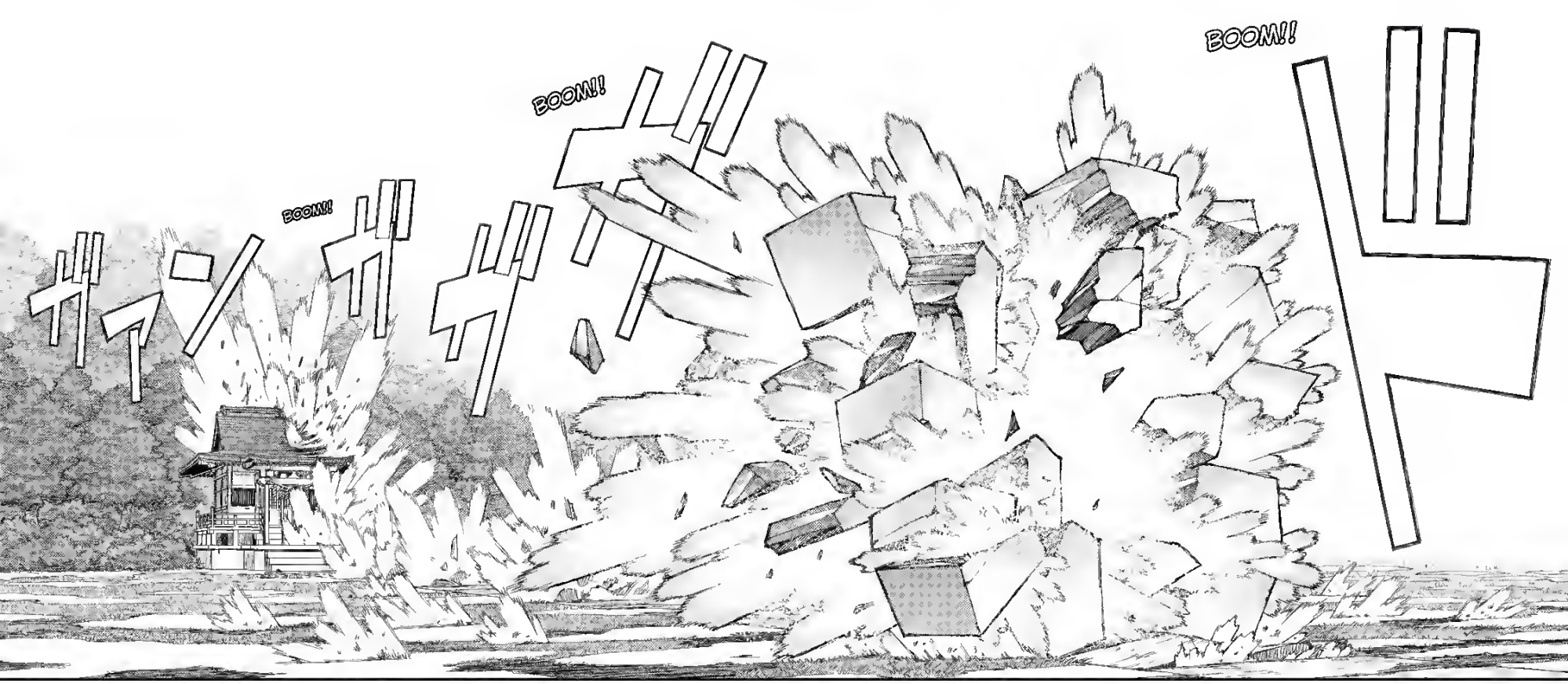
パラ
PAH!!
WATER SPLITTER !!
YOU IDIOT!! YOU'RE GOING TO BLOCK IT WITH A SINGLE LAYERED SHIELD!?
UM ...
SPLASH!!!
POW!
WHAT !!?
HE SPLIT THE AQUA SERPENT !?

DRILL!
SCREW SASH !!!
IS... IS THAT ICE !?
KAZUYA !!
RISE, AQUA BARRICADE !!
SHOOM!!
YOU CAN'T PIERCE THIS BARRIER WITH AN ATTACK LIKE THAT!!
EIGHT-FOLD BLADE !!!


VREEEEEEEE....!!!

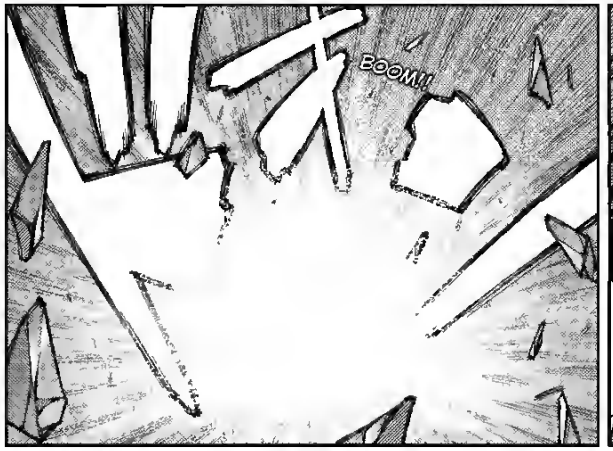
THIS TECHNIQUE IS...
AN EIGHT-FOLD SCREW SASH!!?
HMM...?
HEY, KIRIHA.
チリン
チリン
TING
LING!
THE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST
IF... IF I...
...WERE NO LONGER HERE, COULD YOU TAKE CARE OF KAZUYA?
HA!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? EVEN IF YOU WERE KILLED, YOU WOULDN'T DIE!!
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T WANT TO?
.....
.....
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.
IF THAT TIME COMES, I'LL PROTECT KAZUYA!
KIRIHA..
WHAT!?

THANK YOU.
HMPH!
BOOM!!
IT'S KANAKA'S ...

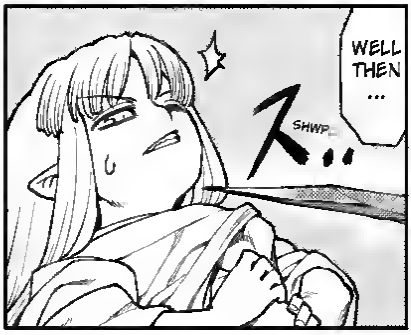

BOOM!!
BOOM!!
BOOM!!

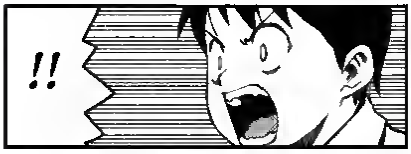
PSSSHHH....
KIRIHA !!!

HUH?


BOOM!!

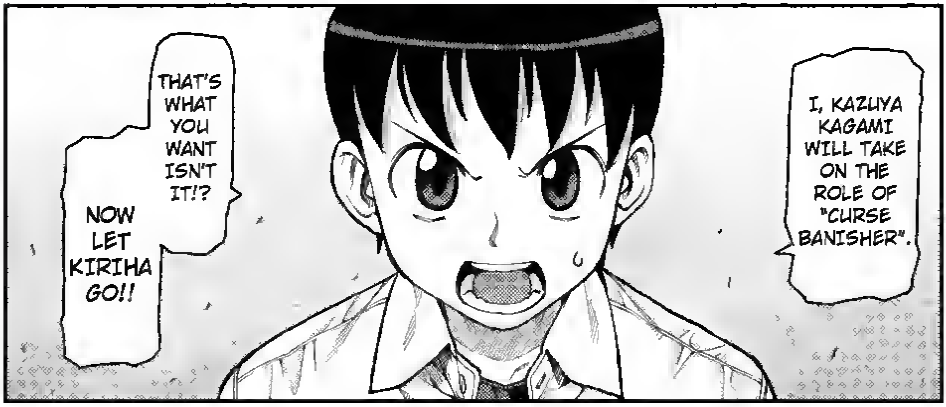
AGK!!
DAMN ...!!


WELL THEN ...
SHWP

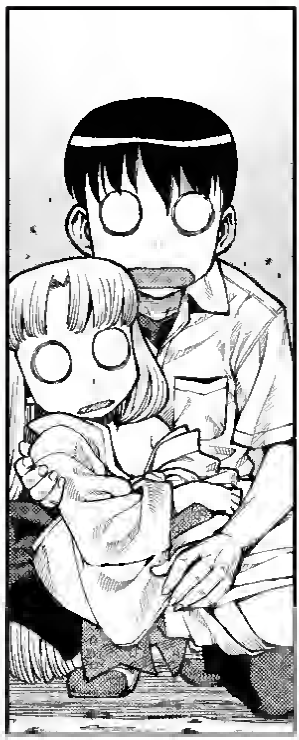

!!

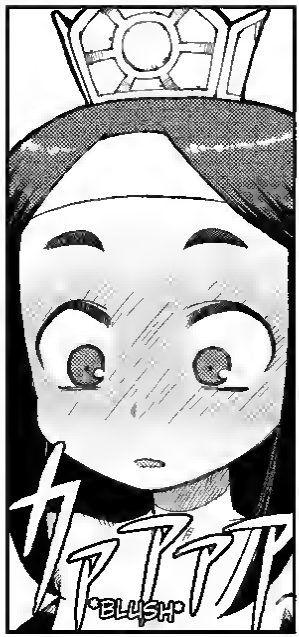
S... STOP! LET KIRIHA GO!!
OH ? SO WHAT SHALL WE DO?

!!!
ALMOST, BUT NOT QUITE, KIRIHA.
YOU WERE ABLE TO PIERCE MY SHIELD BUT COULD NOT DELIVER THE FINISHING BLOW.
ばん!
SURPRISE!


I, KAZUYA KAGAMI WILL TAKE ON THE ROLE OF "CURSE BANISHER".
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT ISN'T IT!?
NOW LET KIRIHA GO!!

KAZUYA
..
I MOST CERT-AINLY HEARD WHAT YOU SAID.
..... VERY WELL.
KIRIHA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT !!?
HAVE YOU BEEN HURT !?
YOU FOOL ...
HA HA HA ...
ちり... *STRAIN*
IN THE END, EVERYTHING HAS BEEN SETTLED. FROM HERE ON, I...
ぢりぢり... *SOUND OF A CORD ABOUT TO SNAP*
SNAP!
ブチッ
ボチャッ
SPLASH!
HUH?

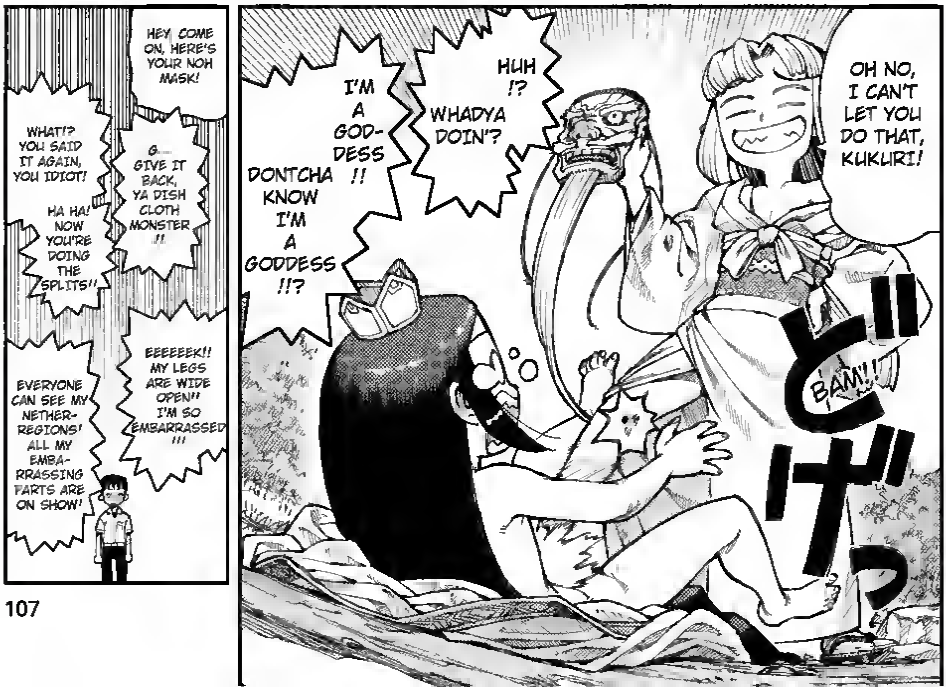


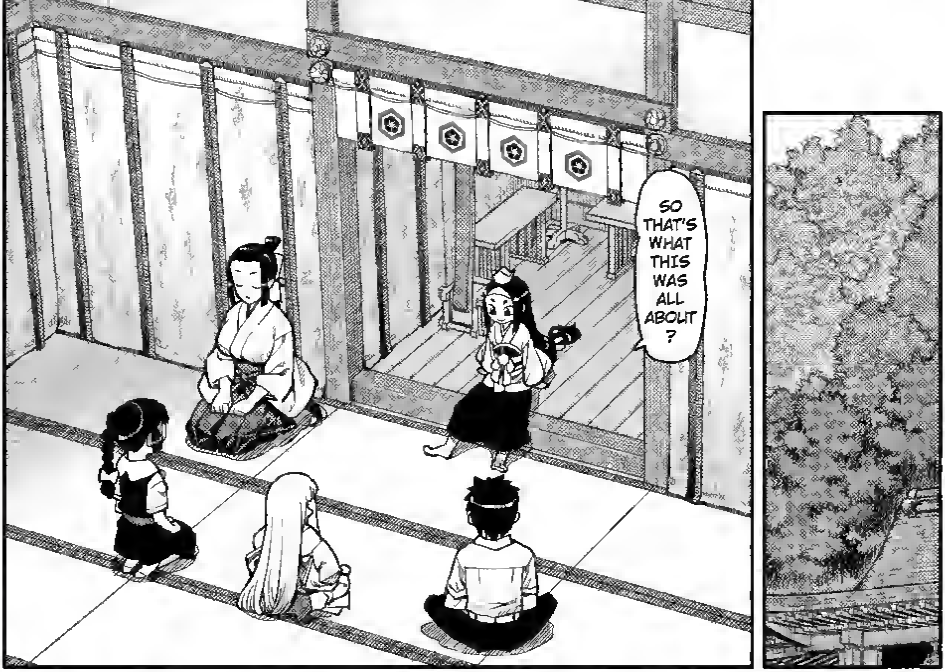

カアアア
"BLUSH"

ぽん
PUFF!

PFF!
フッ
SLUMP
ガビーン
EEEEK!! DON'T LOOK AT ME!!
YOU'RE THE SAME AS ME...
GRR...
ぎりっ
IT'S TRUE! YOU REALLY DO DEPEND ON IT!!
I SEE, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR NOH MASK IS TAKEN OFF!!
AHA HA HA HA HA HA!!! LOOK AT YOU!!

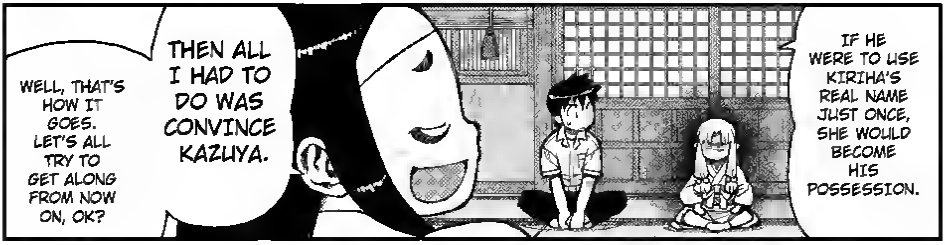
*BACKGROUND = HA HA HA


HEY, COME ON, HERE'S YOUR NOH MASK!
WHAT!? YOU SAID IT AGAIN, YOU IDIOT!
G... GIVE IT BACK, YA DISH CLOTH MONSTER!!
HA HA! NOW YOU'RE DOING THE SPLITS!!
EEEEEEEK!! MY LEGS ARE WIDE OPEN!! I'M SO EMBARRASSED!!!
EVERYONE CAN SEE MY NETHER-REGIONS! ALL MY EMBA-RRASSING PARTS ARE ON SHOW!
OH NO, I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT, KUKURI!
HUH!?
WHADYA DOIN'?
I'M A GOD-DESS!!
DONTCHA KNOW I'M A GODDESS!!?
BAM!!
どげっ


SO THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT?

ALSO, HE CAN CALL FORTH THE CURSE, SO HE HAS UNIQUE TRAITS! HE'S THE BEST FOR THE JOB!
JUST AS MY DIVINE POWERS HAVE STARTED TO RUN OUT, WE'VE FOUND A SUITABLE TSUGUMOMO USER.
THAT'S RIGHT! I WASN'T GONNA KILL KAZUYA!!
SO, FROM THE BEGINNING, THIS WAS ALL JUST AN ACT TO GET KAZUYA TO USE ME?

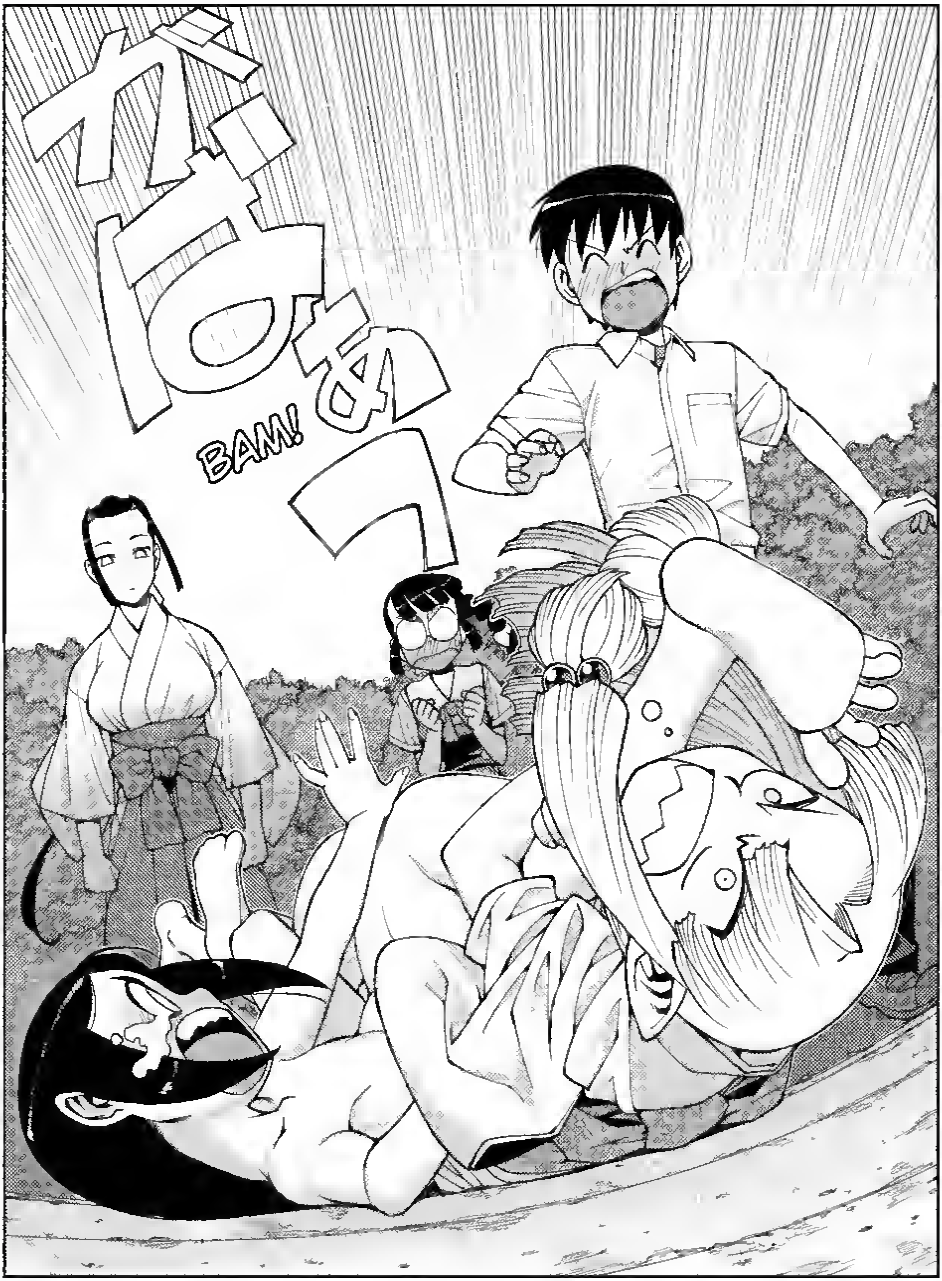
THAT'S ...
A LITTLE SITUATION!?
SO, I CREATED A LITTLE SITUATION WHERE HE HAD TO USE YOU.
BUT I THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NO WAY, YOU'D LET HIM TAKE THE BRUNT OF THE ATTACK.


WELL, THAT'S HOW IT GOES. LET'S ALL TRY TO GET ALONG FROM NOW ON, OK?
THEN ALL I HAD TO DO WAS CONVINCE KAZUYA.
IF HE WERE TO USE KIRIHA'S REAL NAME JUST ONCE, SHE WOULD BECOME HIS POSSESSION.

WHOOOSH!!
LITTLE BRAT !!!
YOU THINK WE CAN "GET ALONG" AFTER THIS!!?
WHY ...
YOU ...
うぉぇぇぇ
PUKE!!
BY THE WAY, KAZUYA, I AIN'T A KID, I'M A GODDESS !!
COULDN'T YOU HAVE STOPPED HER A BIT SOONER, KOKUYOU !?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MASTER KUKURI?
STOP, YOU IMPUDENT WRETCH!!
KIRIHA! SHE'S JUST A CHILD!!
WOAH !!
SORRY TO CAUSE YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE, CHISATO! SEE YOU TOMORROW !!
I'M SORRY, CHISATO. I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU SOMEHOW.
WELL THEN, I SHOULD BE...

HEY, KIRIHA ...
HMM ?
LET'S TRY TO GET ALONG FROM NOW ON.
LET'S START OVER
SURE.
.....
ズズ・
SIP SIP
ANY-WAY ...
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THIS?
HMM ...

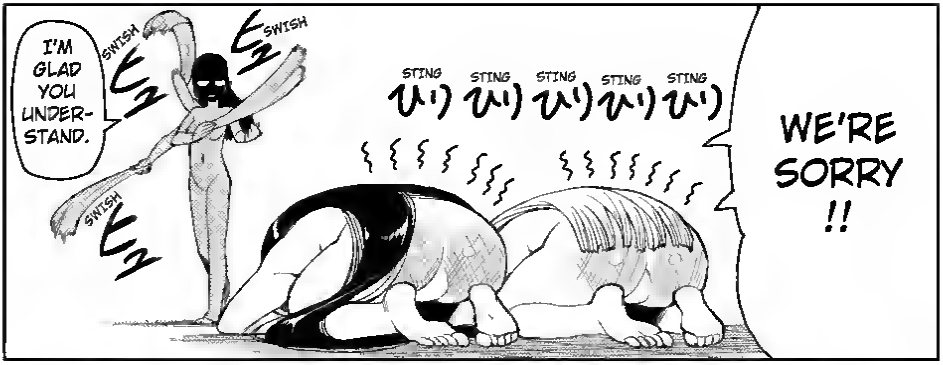
THE SPLITS

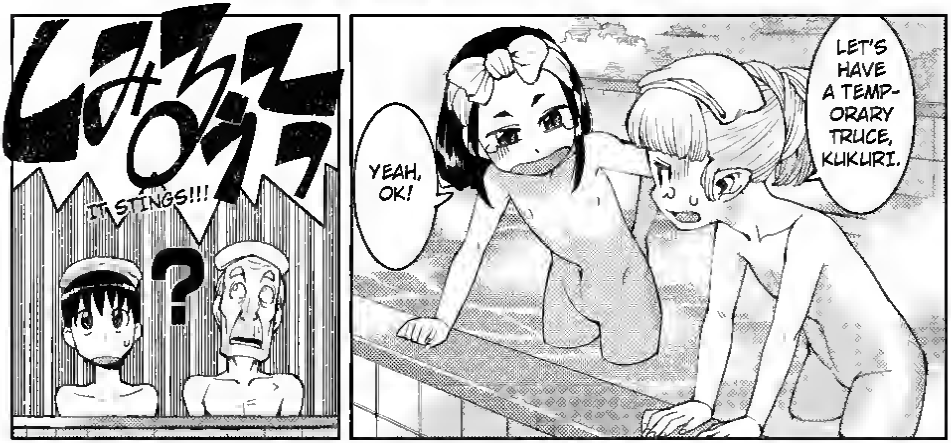


かぽーん
BATH
WOW !!
EVERYONE'S GONE TO THE PUBLIC BATH!
SMACK!!
I'M THE FIRST ONE IN!
GRAB
DASH!
YAY !!

IT'S COMMON SENSE!
FIRST, YOU SHOULD SCOLD KUKURI FOR POKING MY BUTT, CHISTATO!!
FIRST, YOU MUST WASH YOUR BODY WITH FRESH WATER.
バシャア
しゅうう…
"STEAM..."
YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT, KIRIHA
IF YOU GO STRAIGHT INTO THE BATH, YOU'LL MAKE THE WATER DIRTY.
POKE!
ビシ
ごめんなさあああ
PEEKU!!
STOP FOOLING AROUND IN THE BATH-HOUSE!!
THROB
じん
CLATHERP
ちゃ

COLD WATER
SPLASH!
EEEEEK!!
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, KUKURI! NEXT TIME, I'LL POKE YOUR FRONT AND BACK "EXITS"!!
CRASH!!
BANG!!
.....
THE WOMEN'S BATH IS VERY NOISY TODAY
MEN'S BATH
ENTER THE DEMON ...
TOWEL !!
STRETCH...



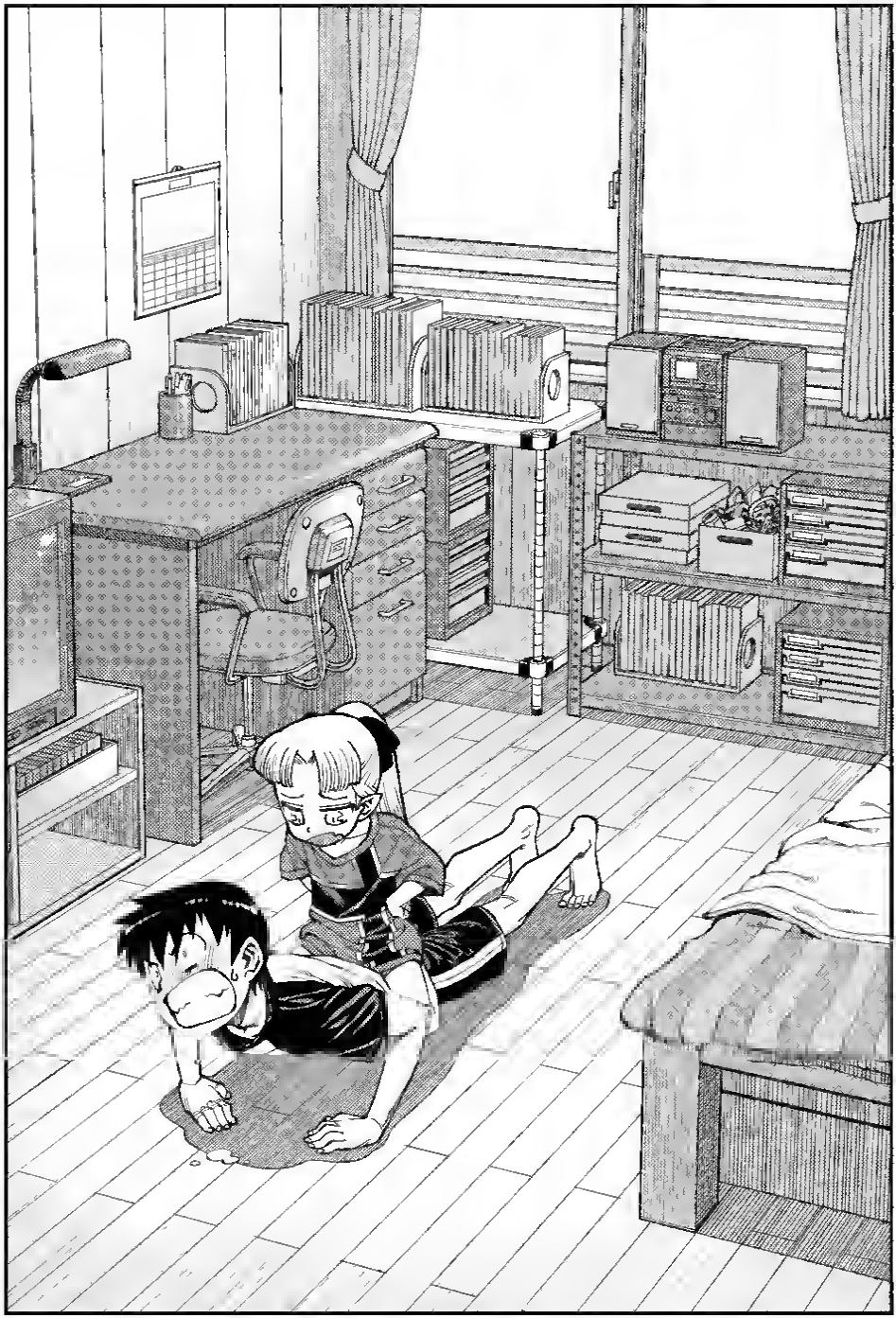


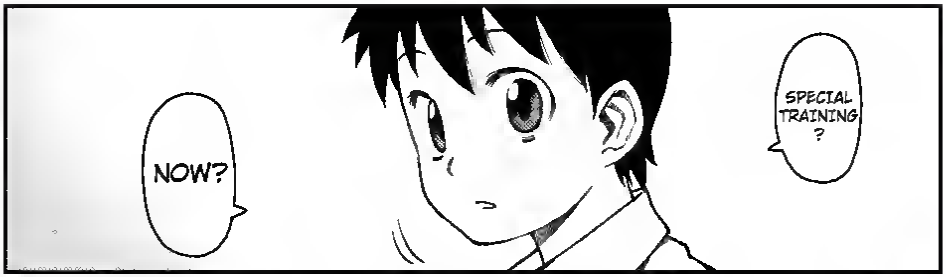
*THEY ARE SCREAMING BECAUSE THEY ARE PUTTING THEIR SORE BUTTS IN HOT WATER

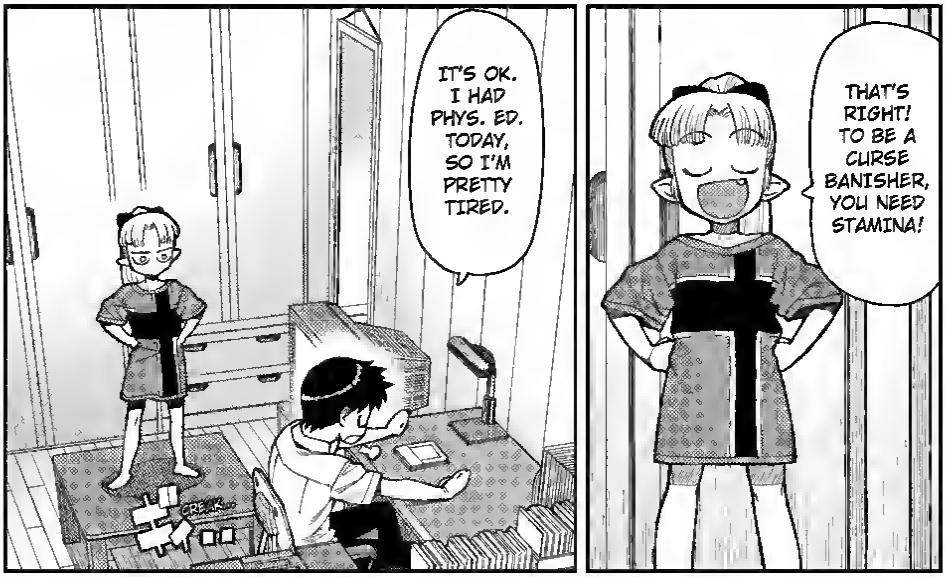
*PORRAGINOL OINTMENT - FOR PAINFUL, BLEEDING, SWOLLEN AND ITCHY HEMORRHOIDS

HEY!
だるーん
TIRED
AAARGH!!!!
"SQUISH SQUISH"
WHY ARE YOU SO WORN OUT? PATHETIC.
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE A GOOD CURSE BANISHER IF YOU'RE WHINING AFTER ONLY THAT AMOUNT OF TRAINING.
"SQUISH SQUISH"
ARMS
STOMACH
BACK
RUNNING
ANYONE WOULD BE LIKE THIS AFTER THE GRUELLING TRAINING I'VE BEEN THROUGH!
AND STOP SQUISHING MY WIENER!!
あ
AAARGH!!
PEEL!
IN THAT CASE, YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING TO REMAIN UNCUT!

第10話 特訓




SPECIAL TRAINING ?
NOW?


IT'S OK. I HAD PHYS. ED. TODAY, SO I'M PRETTY TIRED.
CREAK...
THAT'S RIGHT! TO BE A CURSE BANISHER, YOU NEED STAMINA!

だれっ
ACK!
PAAH!
SASH BIND !!
YOU ...
FOOL !!!

しーん
NOTHING HAPPENS. .
THAT'S RIGHT.
SINCE THE BATTLE WITH KUKURI, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO USE MY DUPLICATE SASH TECHNIQUES.
AND I ALSO HAVE THIS POWERLESS BODY.
KIRIHA, COULD IT BE THAT ...
ちっ
TSK!
SWOOSH!
ROAR!
...SO NOW IS OUR CHANCE TO DO SPECIAL TRAINING !!
ACCORDING TO KUKURI, THE NUMBER OF CURSES WILL NOT INCREASE ANY TIME SOON..
IT'S REGRETTABLE BUT I HAVE TO TRAIN YOU AS A CURSE BANISHER AND TEACH YOU HOW TO CONTROL THE SASH
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SAVE YOU IN THIS STATE.
IN THE MEANTIME, IF ANY STRANGE PHENOMENA OCCUR, LIKE THE HAIR DEMON OR THE BOOK MONSTER ...

K... KIRIHA, YOU'RE TOO FAST...
HUFF!
PUFF!
HUFF!
THIS IS TOO MUCH, TOO SOON FOR A MEMBER OF THE "GO HOME CLUB*" LIKE ME...
HMM?
*HE MEANS HE DOES NOT BELONG TO ANY AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS SO DOES NOT GET MUCH EXERCISE.
NEXT, YOU HAVE TO RUN WHILE CARRYING ME ON YOUR BACK!
AAUGH!!
"ANGRY"
HUFF! PUFF!
HAAA! HAAA!
YOU'RE PATHETIC! SHOW SOME DIGNITY!!

RIGHT, LET'S GO.
OK.
WELL, I'D LIKE YOU TO SHOW ME AGAIN. LET'S START WITH SHIELD SASH.
OK.
EH... HEH HEH HEH.
TO BE HONEST, I WAS SURPRISED BY THE SASH TECHNIQUES YOU USED IN THE BATTLE WITH KUKURI.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD THAT KIND OF TALENT.
PUFF!
SHIELD SASH!

WHAT WAS THAT? TRY HARDER!
THE SHIELD SASH NEEDS TWO LAYERS, SO SEND OUT ANOTHER LAYER OF SASH.
UMM ... ERR ...
ぽふっ
PFFF!
HOW?
IF YOU CAN'T MAKE DUPLICATE LAYERS, THEN YOU CAN'T USE SHIELD SASH, WING SASH, OR ANY OF THE OTHER WEAVING TECHNIQUES.
ALSO, IF YOU CAN'T EVEN CONTROL THE ORIGINAL SASH, YOU CAN'T USE SCREW SASH, SASH BIND, SASH DROP OR MOON SASH EITHER.
HOW DID YOU USE THOSE SASH TECHNIQUES AT THE SHRINE?
"THROB THROB"
ズン ズン
うーむ
HMM...
IT'S GETTING LATE, LET'S GO BACK.
FINALLY
OF COURSE, YOU HAVE TO RUN WITH ME ON YOUR BACK.
うぃぃぃ
AAARGH!

SPLASH!
FIRST, YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND MY SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS AS A TSUKOMOGAMI.
HUH?
ALRIGHT, LISTEN KAZUYA.
TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE A TOOL, YOU MUST KNOW THE TOOL.
I SEE
THAT'S OBVIOUS, RIGHT?
DO YOU KNOW WHY THEY USUALLY TRANSFORM INTO HUMANS?
TSUKUMOGAMI TAKE ON HUMAN FORM.
LMM ...
IS IT SO THAT THEY CAN MEET HUMANS AND TALK TO THEM?
SCRUB SCRUB
WRONG !!
THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU ANSWER!
AAARGH!!
SQUEEZE!

MOST TSUKUMOGAMI COME FROM HUMAN TOOLS.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE ARE USED BY HUMANS
IF THE USER IS NOT AROUND, THEIR POWER IS GREATLY RESTRICTED.
SO YOU'RE SAYING IT'S BECAUSE THEY CAN MOVE AROUND FREELY EVEN IF THE USER ISN'T THERE??
EXACTLY
HOWEVER, THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THE HUMAN FORM.
スッ
SHLIP
ぴと
SOUND OF SKIN-ON-SKIN CONTACT
ERK!
!?

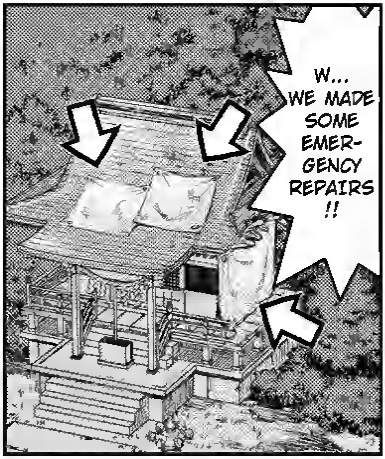
IT'S, IT'S, IT'S... S...SMALL AND S...SOFT AND W...W... WARM.
なな な
HOW IS IT KAZUYA? MY BODY?
IF WE WERE TO SUFFER INJURIES THAT WOULD KILL A HUMAN, WE WOULD DIE TOO IF IN HUMAN FORM.
LIKEWISE, IF I WERE TO BE DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR WHILE IN SASH FORM, I WOULD ALSO DIE.
WE HAVE SKIN, MUSCLES ...
... BONES AND ORGANS.
WE BECOME EXACTLY LIKE THEM!
THAT'S RIGHT! WHEN TSUKUMOGAMI TAKE ON HUMAN FORM ...
IF I WERE CUT INTO LITTLE PIECES OR TURNED TO ASH, THAT WOULD BE THE END FOR ME.
ばらっ FLUTTER...
さらっ SCATTER...
IT'S A BIT LIKE AN INJURY...
BUT IF I WERE TO BE CUT OR RIPPED A LITTLE, I CAN BE REPAIRED.
I KNOW THE LIMITS FOR A HUMAN BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LIMITS FOR A SASH?
HMMM .. I'VE NEVER BEEN PUSHED TO THE LIMIT, SO IT'S HARD TO SAY.

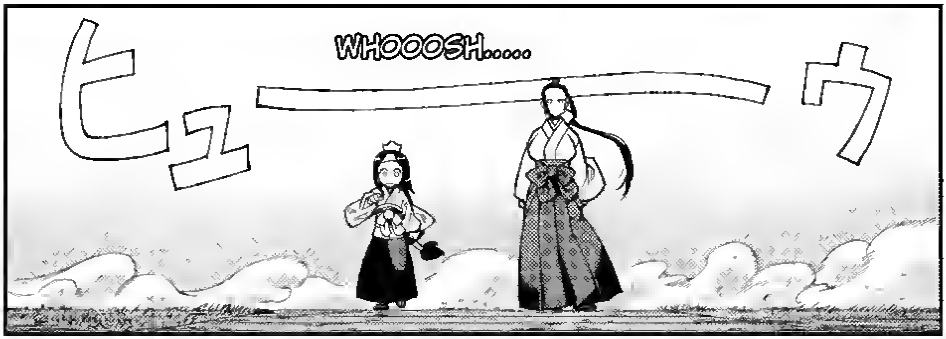
IT'S JUST A PHYSICAL REACTION !!
LOLITA COMPLEX
YOU CAN'T HANDLE THIS FORM EITHER?
WHAT?
BY THE WAY KAZUYA ...
BECAUSE YOU USED TOO MUCH OF YOUR POWER!?
ERK!
OK, NEXT I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT WHY I SHRUNK TO THIS FORM.
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
ACK!
ビクッ
SQUEEZE!
PHEW....
CORRECT.
RUB RUB

DON'T PLAY IN THE BATH !!
SPLISH!
SPLASH!
バチャバチャ
THIS BATH IS REALLY BIG!
BUT I USED UP ALL OF THE POWER I HAD BEEN SAVING, AND THIS IS THE RESULT OF USING SOME OF MY ENERGY THAT I REQUIRE IN ORDER TO EXIST.
I'M SO FLAT-CHESTED...
BUT UNTIL THE BATTLE AT THE SHRINE, I NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED YOU AS MY OWNER.
THE WORST THING IS THAT TSUKUMOGAMI CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT HUMANS
THE POWER TO EXIST AS TSUKUMOGAMI IS THE USER'S EMOTION AND BOND AS WELL.
I SEE ...
THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT BUT KUKURI TURNING INTO HER CHILD FORM IS PROOF OF HER LACK OF POWER.

OK, NEXT IS ...
NEXT IS ...
?
I'LL PROBABLY CHANGE BACK GRADUALLY, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, SO I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE.
HMMM... I THOUGHT SO TOO.
I'M YOUR OWNER NOW, RIGHT? SO SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE RETURNED TO YOUR ORIGINAL FORM?
HUH? THAT'S WEIRD ...
AAARGH!!!
GLUG GLUG GLUG
ぶくぶくぶく
BUT FOR NOW, LET'S DO TRAINING FOR SASH WEAVING WE CAN DO IMMEDIATELY..
...I STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED EVERYTHING.
ERK!
USING FAN
I CAN'T BELIVE I DID THAT ...

WHADYA MEAN!?
MEANWHILE, AT HAKUSAN SHRINE.
SIGN: HAKUSAN SHRINE
白山神社
THESE DAYS, PEOPLE ARE NOT SO RELIGIOUS.
THERE ARE FEW PEOPLE WHO REALLY KNOW ABOUT SHRINES.
WHADYA MEAN, YOU CAN'T GET ANY DONATIONS !?
IT'S A DIFFICULT SITUATION, KUKURI. WE CAN'T FIX IT IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
I AM THE GODDESS OF THIS AREA...
CAN'T YOU DO SOME-THING ?
SNIFF
AH!

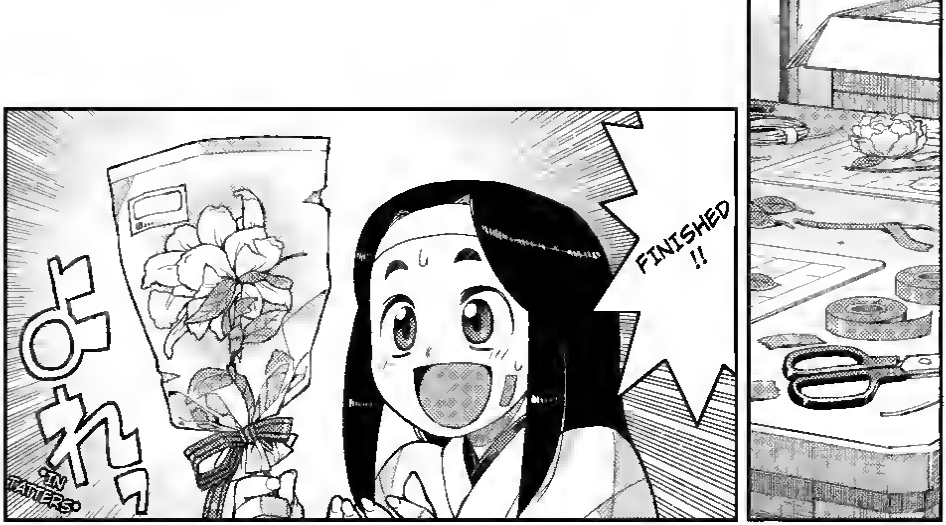


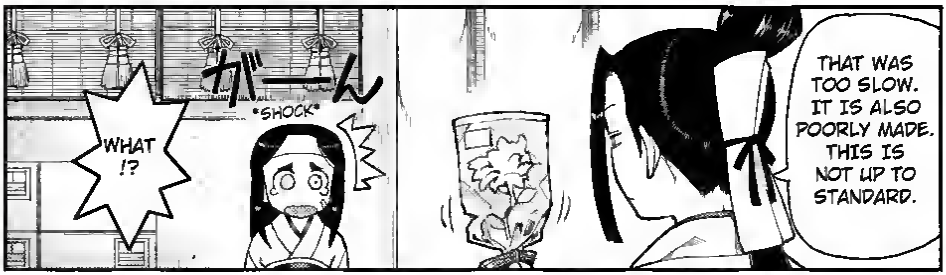


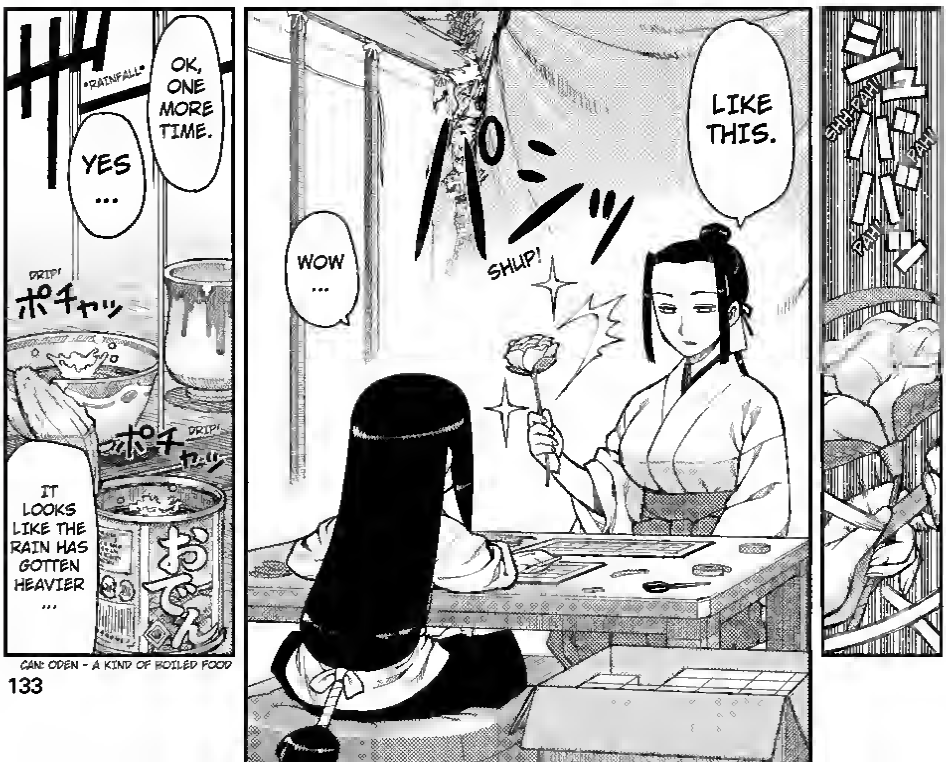
WE'LL FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE TO GET SOME MONEY.
BORROW MONEY FROM KANEYAMA* ?
BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T PAID BACK WHAT WE BORROWED BEFORE.

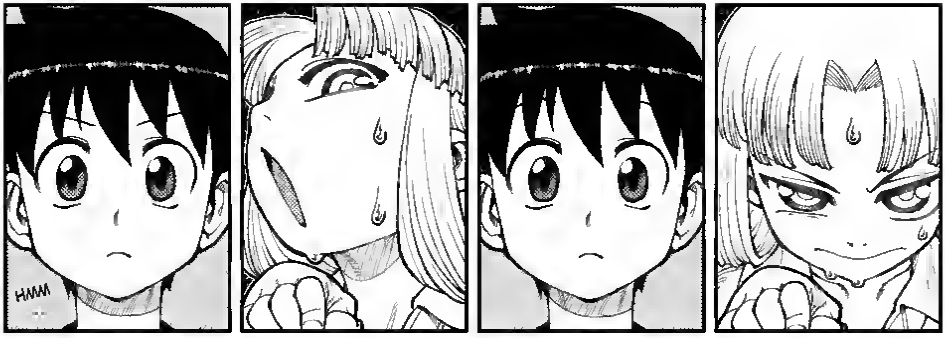
*WHOSE NAME TRANSLATES INTO "GOLD MOUNTAIN"

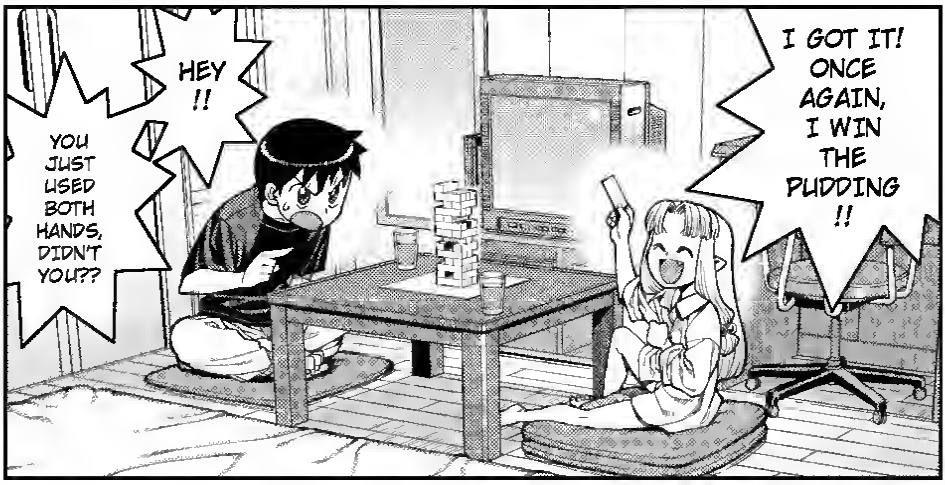
FINISHED !!
GRUMPLE!
ORIGAMI
SMACK!
SO SLOW! SO POORLY MADE!
OK, ONE MORE TIME !!
YES ...
•RAINFALL•
LOOKS LIKE THE RAIN HAS GOTTEN HEAVIER ...
THERE'S A STORM TODAY
WOW ...
SHWP!
LIKE THIS !!
SHH-PAH!
PAH!
PAH!


FINISHED !!
IN TATTERS


THAT WAS TOO SLOW. IT IS ALSO POORLY MADE. THIS IS NOT UP TO STANDARD.
ガーン
SHOCK
WHAT !?


OK, ONE MORE TIME.
RAINFALL
YES ...
DRIP!
ポチャッ
DRIP!
ポチャッ
IT LOOKS LIKE THE RAIN HAS GOTTEN HEAVIER ...
おでん
LIKE THIS.
パシッ
SNUP!
WOW ...
SNUP!
SNUP!
SNUP!


HMM

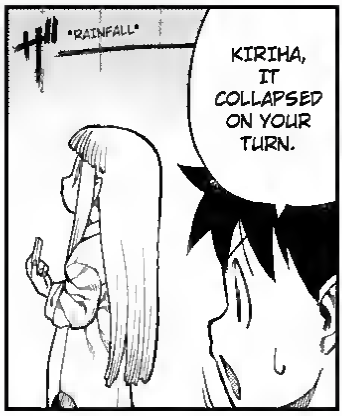

HEY !!
YOU JUST USED BOTH HANDS, DIDN'T YOU??
I GOT IT! ONCE AGAIN, I WIN THE PUDDING !!

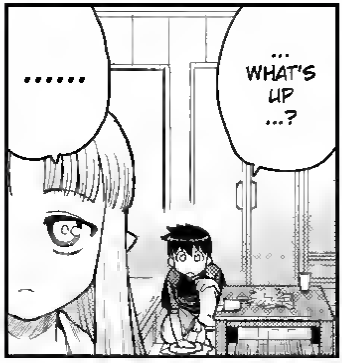
SWAY...
HEY, HEY! KIRHA, YOU SPILLED THE JUICE!
JANGA
IT'S... IT'S NOT MY FAULT !!

KNOCKS GLASS OVER
LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE TREMBLING! I'M ONTO YOU, YOU LIAR!!
I'M NOT LYING !!
SPILL

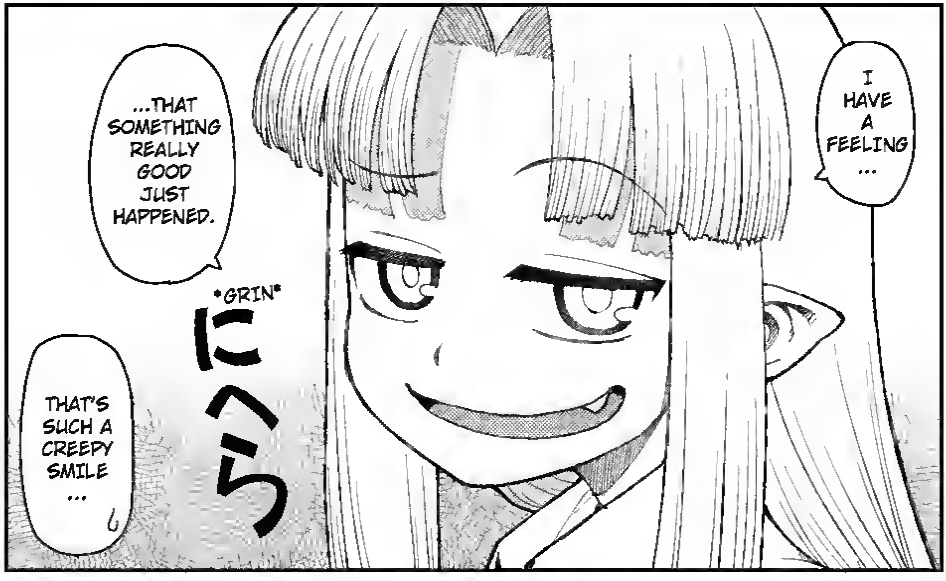
IN "JANGA" YOU CAN ONLY USE ONE HAND!! YOU BROKE THE RULES !!
WH, WH, WH, WH...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I ONLY USED ONE HAND!
ACTS SUSPICIOUSLY

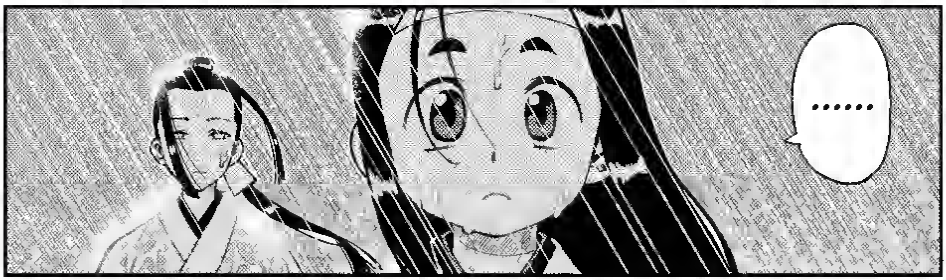
カンカン
TAP
TAP
カンカン
TAP
TAP
PLEASE HOLD IT STEADY.
IF I CAN JUST NAIL THIS BOARD ON...
ギシ
CREAK!
ギシ
CREAK!
AAARGH! IT'S NO GOOD !!
WHOOOSH!!
みしみし
CREAK!
CREAK!
CREAK!
EEK!!
ばっしゃ
SPLAAAASH!!
ずぼ
CRASH!


RAINFALL
KIRIHA, IT COLLAPSED ON YOUR TURN.


.....
... WHAT'S UP ...?

CRASH!!
AAAARGH!!
JANGA


I HAVE A FEELING ...
...THAT SOMETHING REALLY GOOD JUST HAPPENED.
GRIN
にくら
THAT'S SUCH A CREEPY SMILE ...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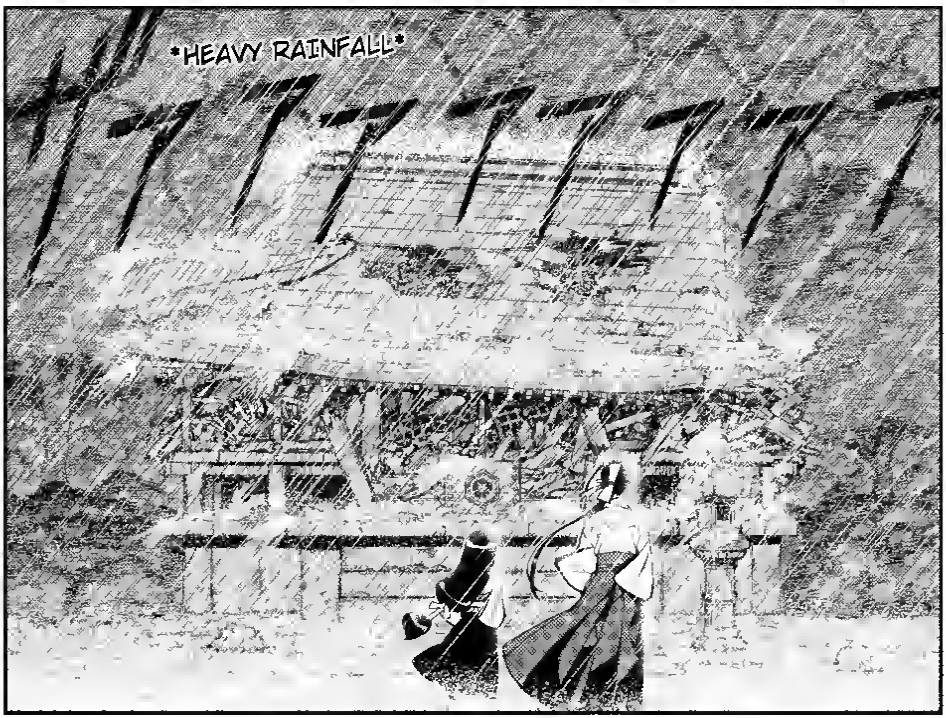

HEAVY RAINFALL

I HAVE AN IDEA.
DO NOT WORRY.
BOO HOO!
WHERE ARE WE GONNA LIVE NOW!?
BE STRONG.
EXHAUSTED
MY... MY SHRINE ...

AHA HA HA HA HA HA HA !!!
.....
.....
IT REALLY SUITS YOU, KUKURI !!
SH... SHADDUP!! IT'S YOUR FAULT! EVERYTHING'S YOUR FAULT!!
STONE HAKUSAN SHRINE
白神社

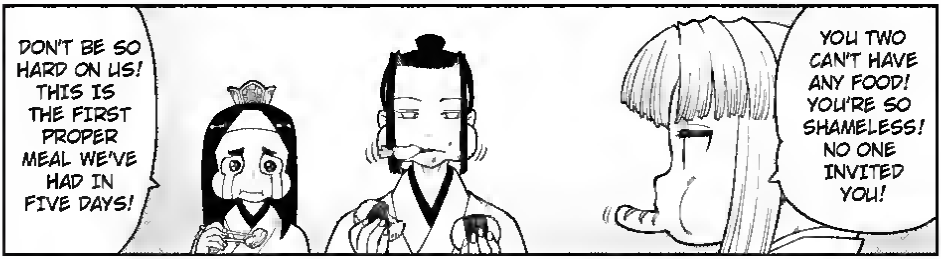
SYMPATHY
DINNER
HUH?
WHAT FOR?
RUSTLE
KAZUYA, CAN YOU LET ME USE THIS SHOPPING BAG?
I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT KIND OF PATHETIC THINGS KUKURI IS DOING.
KIRIHA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT'S THAT?
BAM!
"PEEK"
SIGN: HAKUSAN SHRINE
THIS IS ...!
"SOB"
NO WAY !!!
TODAY'S DINNER IS EDIBLE GRASS.
MUNCH MUNCH
THERE ARE SOME KIND PEOPLE OUT THERE AFTER ALL...
MAYONNAISE
ARE YOU CRYING?

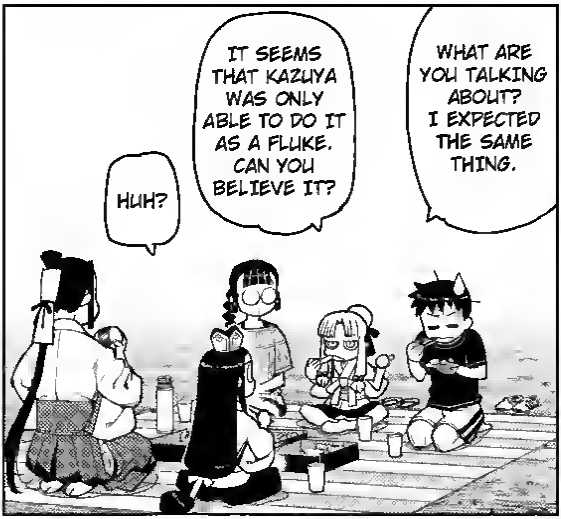
BOSOM FOR A PILLOW

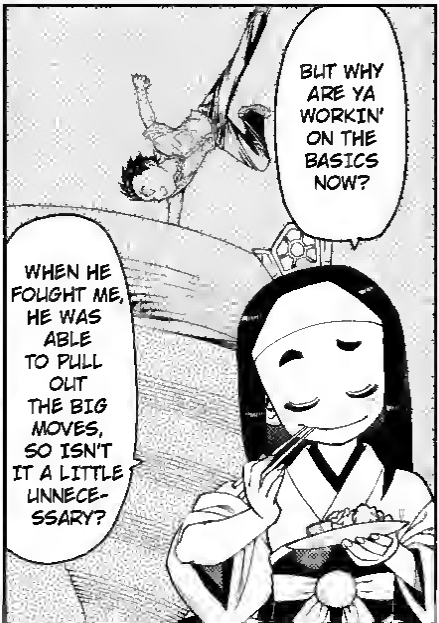
CHAPTER 11 DISTANCING
第11話 間合い

SWING!
SWING!
SWING!
THIS IS SPECIAL TRAINING FOR DISTANCING!
THE ONE THAT CONTROLS THE DISTANCE, CONTROLS THE FIGHT!
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS THE SASH'S STRIKE RANGE!
SWOOOOOSH!
HALF A KEI, ONE JOU AND ONE SHAKU*! (4 METERS, 17 CENTI-METERS)
*OLD JAPANESE MEASUREMENTS
SWISH! (MISSES)
すかっ
IF HE CAN NARROWLY AVOID BEING HIT, HE CAN MASTER DISTANCING.
OH...
I SEE...
SMACK!
THIS TIME, YOU'RE TOO FAR AWAY! YOU COWARD!!

じゃん!
TA-DA!
WOW, CHISATO! IS THERE PUDDING? DID YOU BRING PUDDING !?
OF COURSE I DID.
UMM... I MADE LUNCH, SO...


DON'T BE SO HARD ON US! THIS IS THE FIRST PROPER MEAL WE'VE HAD IN FIVE DAYS!
YOU TWO CAN'T HAVE ANY FOOD! YOU'RE SO SHAMELESS! NO ONE INVITED YOU!

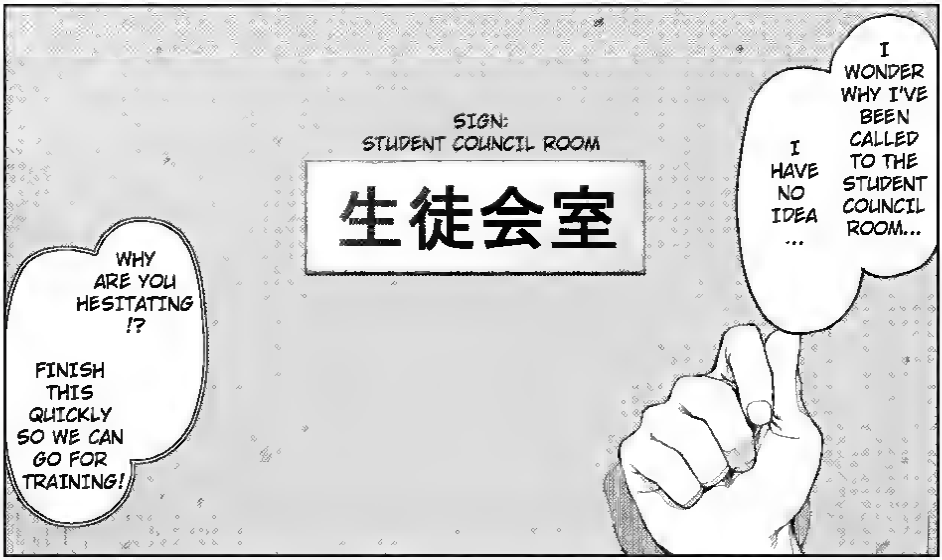

HUH?
IT SEEMS THAT KAZUYA WAS ONLY ABLE TO DO IT AS A FLUKE. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I EXPECTED THE SAME THING.


BUT WHY ARE YA WORKIN' ON THE BASICS NOW?
WHEN HE FOUGHT ME, HE WAS ABLE TO PULL OUT THE BIG MOVES, SO ISN'T IT A LITTLE UNNECE-SSARY?

THIS IS HOW KAZUYA IS NOW. I'M WORRIED ABOUT HOW THINGS WILL GO FROM HERE ON.
HRRRRRRRNNN.....
くぁぁぁぁぁ
DRAG...
ずりりっ
れっ
SWISH!
CALM DOWN, MASTER KUKURI. KIRIHA WILL SUSPECT THAT WE HAVE ULTERIOR MOTIVES.
WH, WH, WH, WH...WHAT IS THIS!!? WE'VE FAILED!! WE'VE COMPLETELY, UTTERLY FAILED!!
BUT I HAVEN'T HAD ANY YET!!
PUDDING PLOPS OUT OF POT
プリンッ
THAT'S THE LAST ONE!!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE'RE ABOUT TO RUN OUT OF PUDDING !!
I'M NOT HIDIN' ANYTHING !!
SHAKES HEAD
HMMM? WHAT IS IT? ARE YOU HIDING SOMETHING AGAIN? HUH?
SUDDENLY APPEARS

AFTER SCHOOL
HMMM ……

A FEW DAYS LATER


I WONDER WHY I'VE BEEN CALLED TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM...
I HAVE NO IDEA ...
SIGN: STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM
生徒会室
WHY ARE YOU HESITATING !?
FINISH THIS QUICKLY SO WE CAN GO FOR TRAINING!

ガチャ
DOOR OPENS
HELLO ?

YES, COME IN.

DID YOU CALL FOR ME? IT'S KAZUYA KAGAMI.
コン コン
KNOCK KNOCK

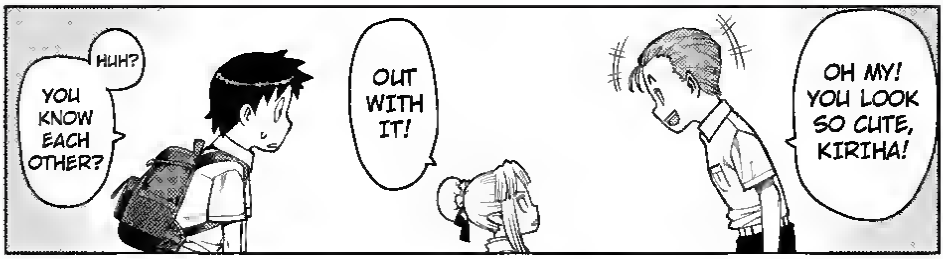
WELCOME, KAZUYA KAGAMI! I AM THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL, TADATAKA TADATA!
SPIN
STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT
OR SHOULD I SAY "LONG TIME, NO SEE"?
DRAMATIC ENTRANCE
TWINKLE!
RUSTLE!
MAYBE IF I DO THIS, YOU'LL RECOGNIZE ME!!
HA HA HA! WHAT A MEAN THING TO SAY!
HUH? I THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE SPOKEN ...

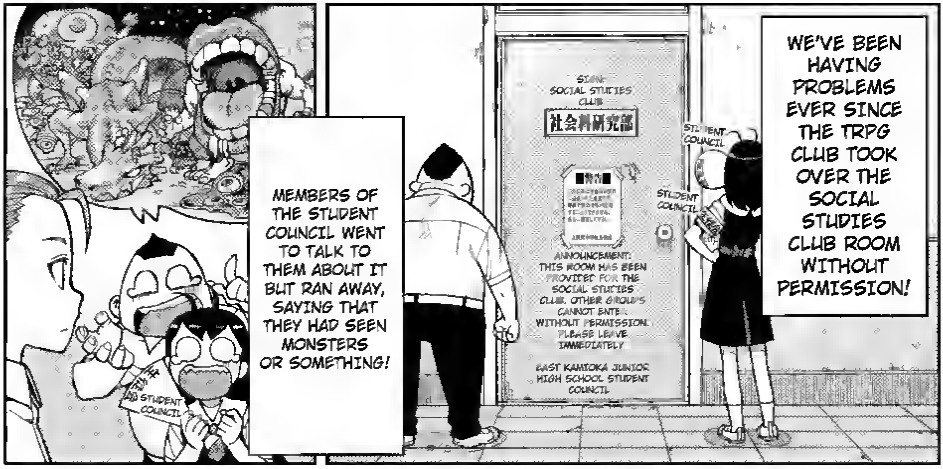
"DRAMATIC ENTRANCE PART 2!"
ぼーん!
WOAH!!! YOU'RE THAT GUY FROM BACK THEN !!?
HA HA HA! I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY! MY FEELINGS FOR YOU MUST HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF CONTROL!!

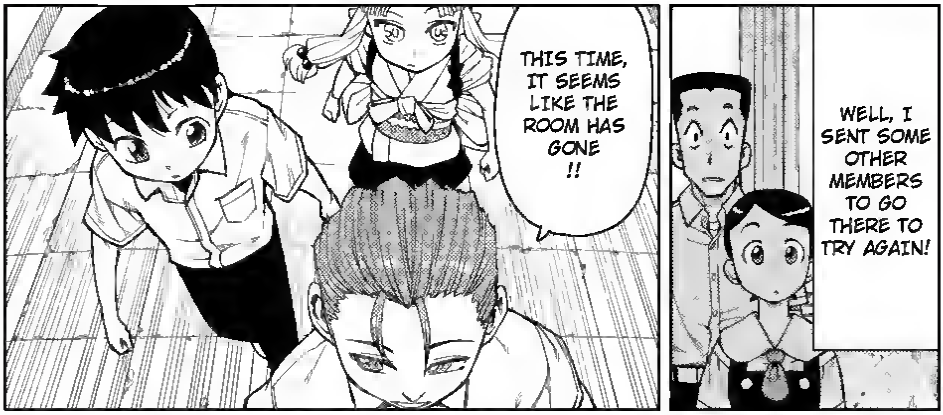
WA...
YOU MUSTN'T APPEAR...!!
HURRY UP AND STATE YOUR BUSINESS, TADATAKA !!
ポン!
PUFF!

I DON'T LIKE BOYS, I LIKE YOU! EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
IT'S UNTHINKABLE!
WHY DO YOU LIKE BOYS EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A BOY YOURSELF !? YOU PERVERT!
すちゃっ
SWISH!
I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!

!?
SHWP!
HEY! HOW LONG IS THIS GOING TO GO ON FOR?


OH MY! YOU LOOK SO CUTE, KIRIHA!
OUT WITH IT!
HUH? YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

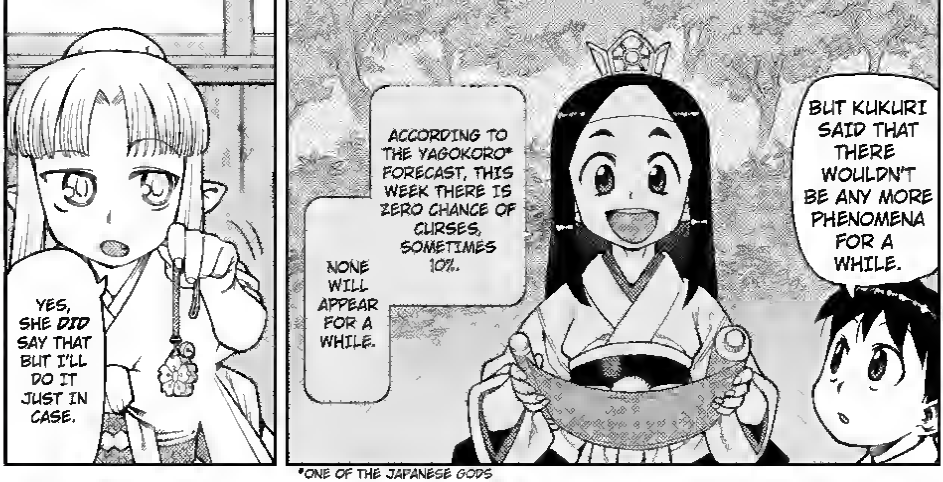

WE'VE BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS EVER SINCE THE TRPG CLUB TOOK OVER THE SOCIAL STUDIES CLUB ROOM WITHOUT PERMISSION!
STUDENT COUNCIL
STUDENT COUNCIL
SIGN: SOCIAL STUDIES CLUB
社会科研究部
ANNOUNCEMENT: THIS ROOM HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES CLUB. OTHER GROUPS CANNOT ENTER WITHOUT PERMISSION. PLEASE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY
EAST KAMIOKA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL WENT TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT IT BUT RAN AWAY, SAYING THAT THEY HAD SEEN MONSTERS OR SOMETHING!
STUDENT COUNCIL


THIS TIME, IT SEEMS LIKE THE ROOM HAS GONE !!
WELL, I SENT SOME OTHER MEMBERS TO GO THERE TO TRY AGAIN!

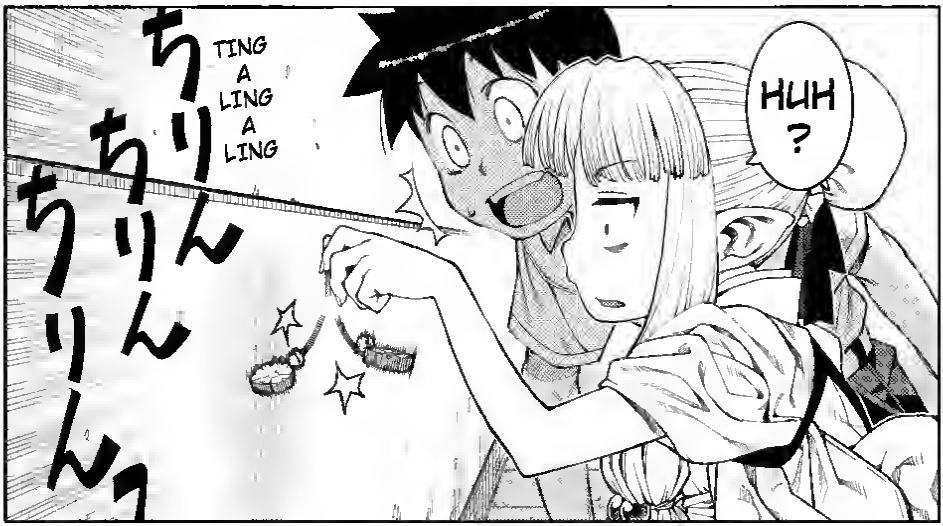
THE ROOM'S GONE? WHAT DO YOU...
I HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE EITHER! BUT DOESN'T THIS FEEL LIKE DEJA VU?
I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO RELY ON YOU GUYS!
WELL, YOU'LL SEE WHEN WE GET THERE!

OH!
SKETCH B
THIS IS AN UNUSUAL GROUP. KAZUYA WITH THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
HEY, OSAMU.
AND WHO MIGHT THIS CUTE LITTLE LADY BE?
HUH?
SCRAWL SCRAWL SCRAWL
I'M KAZUYA'S OWNER, KIRIHA.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
"OMINOUS ATMOSPHERE"
HOW ADMIRABLE. THAT YOU ARE OWNED BY A LITTLE GIRL, KAZUYA ...
DON'T TAKE HER SERIOUSLY. SHE'S A RELATIVE'S KID AND A PRECOCIOUS ONE AT THAT. VERY PRECOCIOUS.
CRACKLE!

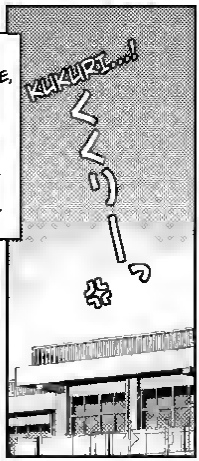
WHAT!?
WHY ARE YOU HERE, OSAMU?
BECAUSE THE MANGA CLUB ROOM IS HERE.
OH. THAT'S TRUE. THERE CERTAINLY WAS ANOTHER DOOR HERE.
IT'S NOT HERE! IT REALLY HAS DISAPPEARED!!
THE DOOR TO THE SOCIAL STUDIES CLUB ROOM SHOULD BE RIGHT HERE!
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT RESPONDS TO ANY ABNORM-ALITIES, IN OTHER WORDS, AMASOGI.
THAT'S THE ROOT DETECTOR YOU USED THAT TIME IN THE LIBRARY!
AH!
WHERE?
TING A LING!


BUT KUKURI SAID THAT THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY MORE PHENOMENA FOR A WHILE.
ACCORDING TO THE YAGOKORO* FORECAST, THIS WEEK THERE IS ZERO CHANCE OF CURSES, SOMETIMES 10%.
NONE WILL APPEAR FOR A WHILE.
YES, SHE DID SAY THAT BUT I'LL DO IT JUST IN CASE.

*ONE OF THE JAPANESE GODS



REALLY? AWW CRIPES! WE DIDN'T BUY THE LATEST ISSUE, DID WE?
MASTER KUKURI, THIS IS THE FORECAST FROM TWO MONTHS AGO.
MEANWHILE, IN THE HAKUSAN SHRINE, SOUTH KAMIOKA PARK BRANCH...

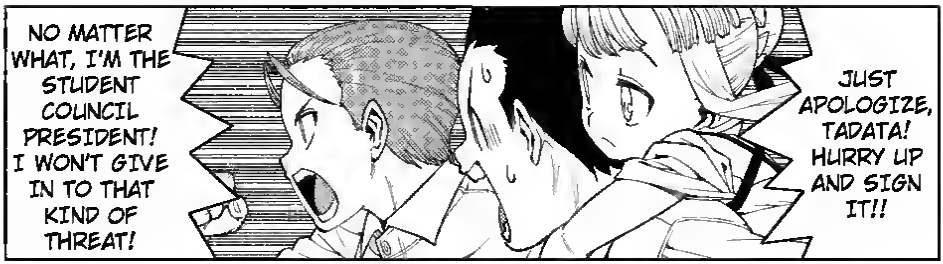


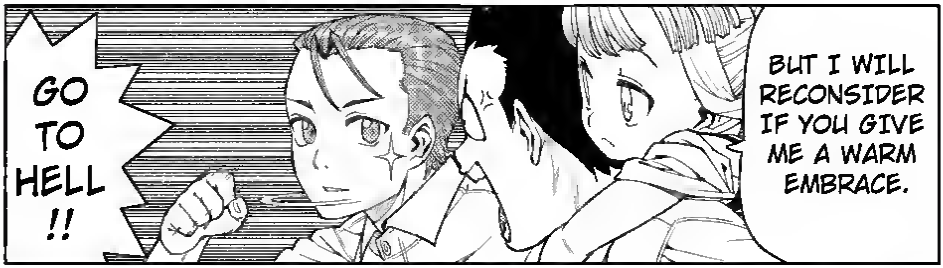
BAM!!
!?
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING THE WAY I AM NOW!
IT'S GOING TO BE A BIG PROBLEM IF WE CAN'T RELY ON YOU, KIRIHA
COULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?
I WILL WHEN WE GET BACK.
WHAT THE HELL? THIS WAS A HALLWAY UNTIL JUST NOW!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, STUDENT COUNCIL PRESI-DENT.
YOU ARE ...
SLIDE!

NAKA-JIMA !!
CLUB ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM TABLE-TOP RPG CLUB
AS OF TODAY, YOU WILL OFFICIALLY ACCEPT THE TRPG CLUB AND PROVIDE US WITH A CLUB ROOM.
YOUR SIGNATURE AND THUMB-PRINT* WILL SUFFICE. SIGN HERE PLEASE.
MY ANSWER IS THE SAME! YOUR APPLICATION DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIRE-MENTS!
*SOMETIMES USED AS AN OFFICIAL SEAL IN JAPAN
HEY, HEY, TADATA! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO, SO YOU SHOULD JUST SAY "YES", EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LIE...
キリッ
SERIOUS FACE
VACATE THE CLUB ROOM AT ONCE!
I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT...
WELL THEN ...
I'LL HAVE TO BE A LITTLE MORE FORCEFUL !!!
SKETCH BOO
!?
ばっ
PAH!

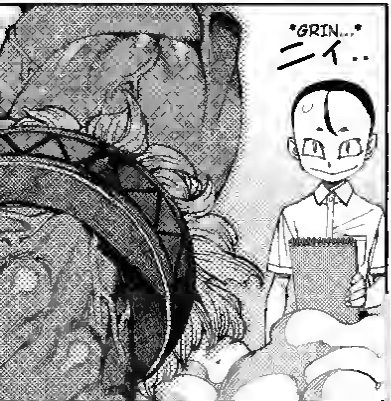
シャシャシャ
SCRAWL! SCRAWL!
IT IS COMPLETE !!
POW!!
MINOTAUR!!!
BOOOM!!

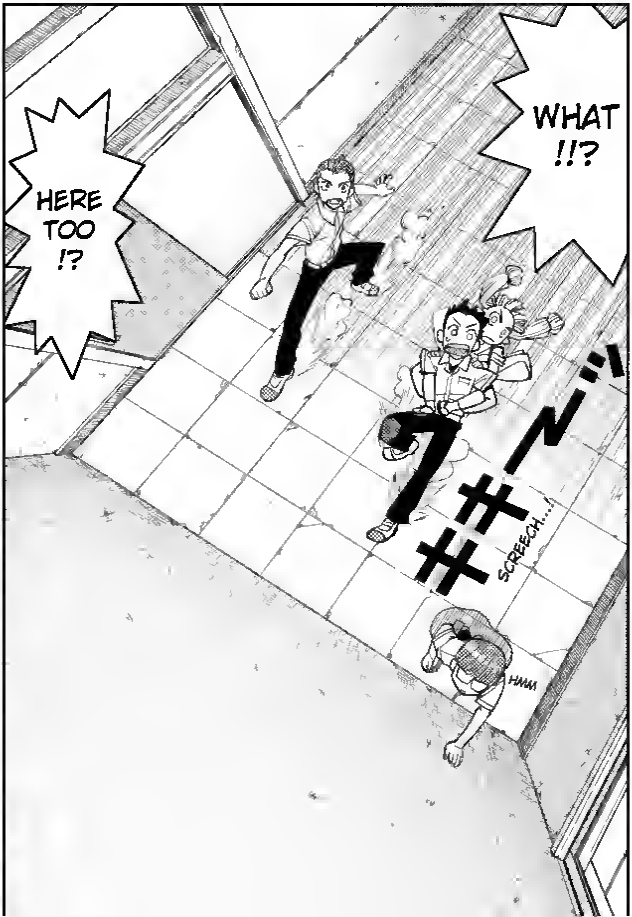
CHARGING HOOVES
AAAAARGH!!! IT'S LIKE THE LIBRARY INCIDENT ALL OVER AGAIN!!
MOO!!
WHOOSH!!
FOOTSTEPS
GENTLY NOW.
JUST GIVE THEM A LIGHT TAP.
YOU CALL THAT "GENTLE" !!?
SMASH!!!


NO MATTER WHAT, I'M THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT! I WON'T GIVE IN TO THAT KIND OF THREAT!
JUST APOLOGIZE, TADATA! HURRY UP AND SIGN IT!!


GO TO HELL !!
BUT I WILL RECONSIDER IF YOU GIVE ME A WARM EMBRACE.

SLIDE
THE CHEMISTRY ROOM'S OPEN!
IN HERE, QUICK !!


GRIN...


WHAT !!?
HERE TOO !?
SCREECH...!
HMM

LET'S ESCAPE ALONG THE VERANDA !!
スカッ
SWISH! (MISSES)
!?
THIS IS ...!
ばーん
BAM...!
WINDOWS HAVE BEEN DRAWN ONTO A WALL!
ドガッ
SMASH!
GRR! IT'S A TRAP !!
あーはっはっはっ!!!
ひっかかったァ
ひっかかったァ
AHA HA HA HAAA!!! I GOT YOU! I GOT YOU!

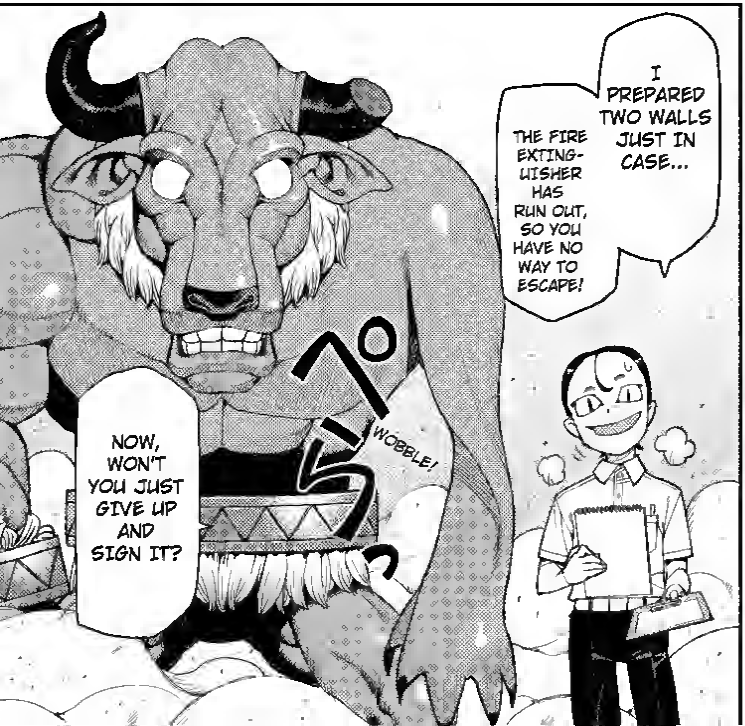
SMASH!!
どがん
WE CAN'T KEEP RUNNING AWAY, KAZUYA !!
THINK! WE'RE UP AGAINST AN AMASOGI! UNDERSTANDING IT IS THE KEY TO BREAKING OUT OF HERE!
UH ...
UMM ... UMM ...
SKETCH
HE CREATED THE MONSTER WITH THAT SKETCHBOOK AND PENCIL! IF THAT'S AN AMASOGI ..
THAT'S IT!
ずがん
BOOOM!!
...ARE ALL THINGS THAT HE DREW!!
ズーン
BAM!
... THEN THIS WALL AND THAT WALL AND THE MONSTER ...
ドドド

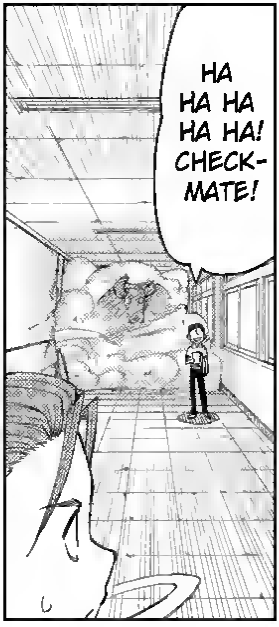
NOW !!
ズオオオオ
SMAAASH!!
FIRE !!!
PSSSSHHHH!!!
ハアアアアッ
どろっ
DRIP!
ARE YOU TRYING TO WASH AWAY THE MINOTAUR WITH FAUCET WATER !?
PSHHHHHH!!!
ぶしゅうううう
WATER !?

IN THAT CASE ...
IT'S NOT SO WEAK THAT IT CAN BE ERASED BY SOMETHING LIKE THAT !!
BUT IT'S NOT GONNA WORK !!
KA-PSSH!!!
...HOW ABOUT THIS!?
PFFFFFFF!!!!
PSHHHHHH...!
THE MINOTAUR ... IT'S BEING COVERED BY A WHITE COATING ...!
DISAPPEARS...
PFFFF!!
A... FIRE EXTINGUISHER !?

PFFFAAA!!!
ブシャアア
IF THIS IS A PICTURE TOO, IT CAN BE ERASED!
PFFF!!
ボファッ
QUICK, KAZUYA !!
THIS WALL !!
WH...
WHAAAAT!!!
IT'S JUST RUN OUT.
PFF!
プスン
ALRIGHT!
YEAH!
バファアアア
PFAAAAAAAAAAAAA

THERE'S ...
バン!!
BAM!!
ANOTHER WALL !!


I PREPARED TWO WALLS JUST IN CASE...
THE FIRE EXTING-UISHER HAS RUN OUT, SO YOU HAVE NO WAY TO ESCAPE!
ぷる
WOBBLE!
NOW, WON'T YOU JUST GIVE UP AND SIGN IT?

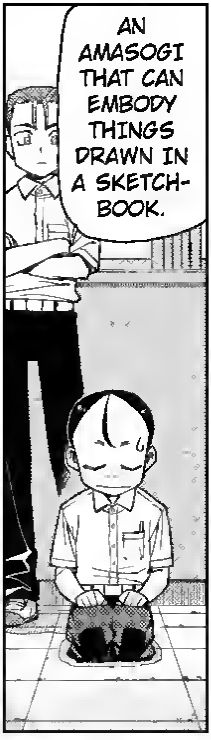

HA HA HA HA HA! CHECK-MATE!

?
THERE'S ONE IN THE HALLWAY. IF ONLY WE'D REALIZED SOONER ...
TSK ...
EVEN LIKE THIS, IT STILL POSES A THREAT ...!
OH. HE'S REDRAWN THE ARM THAT IT LOST BUT THE SKETCH ISN'T VERY GOOD, SO IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT CAN BE USED.
SIGH...
!
BUT ... IT'S IN A PLACE LIKE THAT ...
NO... NO WAY! TADATA SHOULDN'T BE DEALING WITH THIS!
I'M THE CAUSE OF THE CURSE GATHERING AND I'M THE ONE WHO ACCEPTED THE ROLE OF CURSE BANISHER ...
BUT IF WE REALLY TRIED TALKING TO HIM ...
BUT ...
.....
WA ...
I'M THE ONE WHO HAS CAUSED ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS FOR YOU! I'LL TALK TO HIM ALONE!
STAY BACK, YOU GUYS!

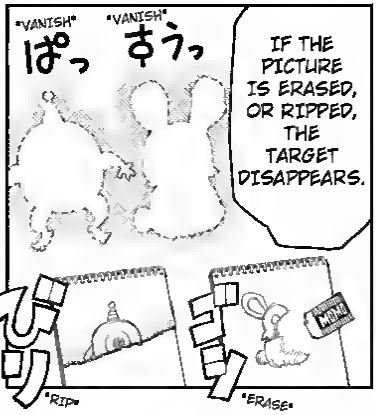
WAIT, TADATA !!
YOU SHOULDN'T LET HIM FORCE YOU TO AGREE TO THIS !!
!?
I CAN'T LET HIM !!
GRIP!
BUT, KAZUYA, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN ...
YES, THERE IS!
KIRIHA !!
.... OK.
WHAT IS IT? YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HURT YOURSELVES IF YOU TRY TO ACT COOL!
MINOTAUR!!
THE ONE WHO CONTROLS THE DISTANCE
... CONTROLS THE FIGHT !!

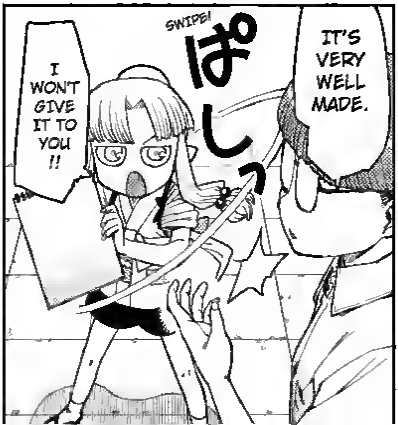
1 JOU 1 SHAKU !!!
SMASH!!
パーーーーーン
SHWP!!
YOU DID IT, KAZUYA! YOU'VE GRASPED THE DISTANCING !!
YEAH !!
ぱしっ
SHUP!
WHA ...
!!

PFAAAAA!!
EAT THIS !!


AN AMASOGI THAT CAN EMBODY THINGS DRAWN IN A SKETCH-BOOK.

SO HE PREPARED SOME UNFINISHED DRAWINGS IN ADVANCE AND BROUGHT THEM TO LIFE BY COMPLETING THEM...
ANY NUMBER OF THEM CAN BE MADE BUT YOU CAN ONLY FULLY CONTROL ONE.
DON'T MESS AROUND WITH IT!
PUFF!
PUFF!

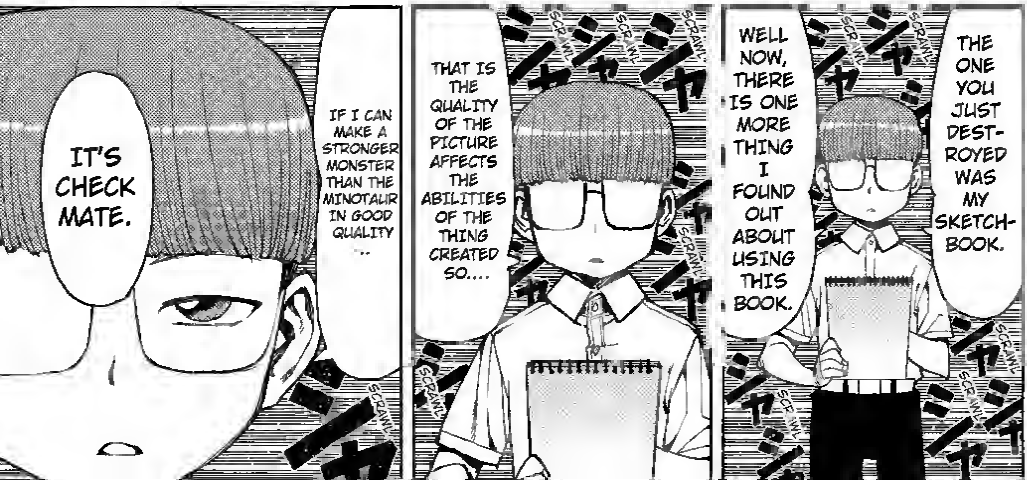

"VANISH"
"VANISH"
IF THE PICTURE IS ERASED, OR RIPPED, THE TARGET DISAPPEARS.
"RIP"
"ERASE"


SWIPE!
IT'S VERY WELL MADE.
I WON'T GIVE IT TO YOU !!

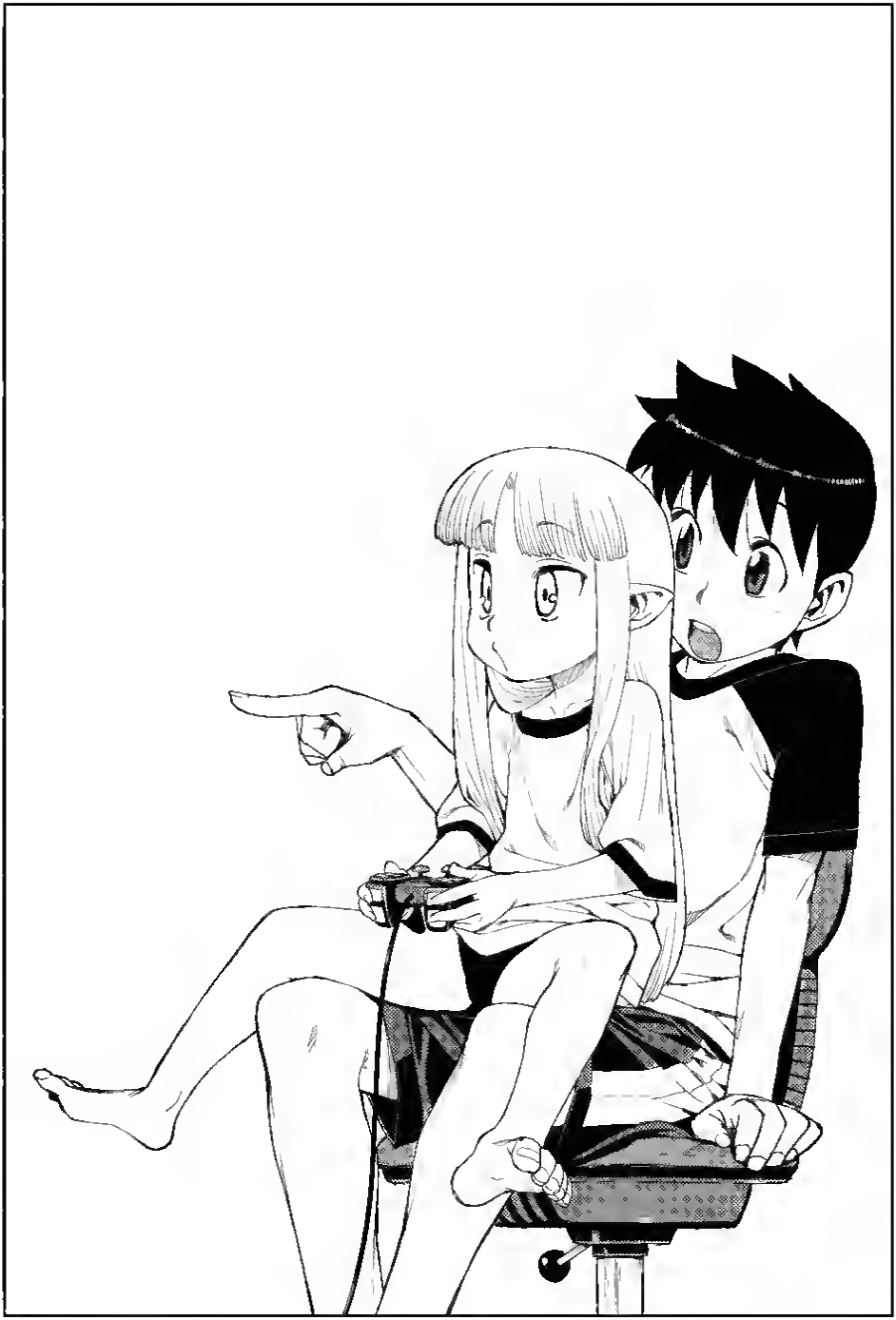
IF ANOTHER PERSON DESTROYS THE AMASOGI, THE CREATOR WILL BE HIT WITH THE CURSE.
DESTROY IT YOUR-SELF.
SHUP!
DON'T TRY ANY FUNNY STUFF.
SKETCH BOOK
FLINCH
HEY, YOU.
Y... YES ...?
RIP!
NO WAY, YOU JERK !!
!!
PAH!
RUSTLE..
NAKAJIMA, I'VE GOT LOTS OF THINGS TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, SO COME TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM.
NOW THAT'S ALL BEEN DEALT WITH, YOU OWE US A BIG FAVOR.

BOOOM!!
ONCE AGAIN!
再び
IT IS COMPLETE
MINOTAUR !!

MOOO!!
NO.
WE'RE DONE FOR ...!
THE FIRE EXTING-UISHER HAS RUN OUT!
HE HAD ANOTHER PAGE HIDDEN IN HIS POCKET !?


IT'S CHECK MATE.
IF I CAN MAKE A STRONGER MONSTER THAN THE MINOTAUR IN GOOD QUALITY ...
THAT IS THE QUALITY OF THE PICTURE AFFECTS THE ABILITIES OF THE THING CREATED SO....
WELL NOW, THERE IS ONE MORE THING I FOUND OUT ABOUT USING THIS BOOK.
THE ONE YOU JUST DEST-ROYED WAS MY SKETCH-BOOK.
SCRAWL

FWOOOM!!
IT IS COMPLETE.
FLARE DRAGON.
FWOOM!
SPRINKLER TURNS ON
FIRE ALARM
PROBLEM SOLVED
PLEASE, OSAMU, YOU HAVE TO KEEP THIS A SECRET.
YES, OF COURSE BUT THAT WILL COST YOU 60 PAGES WORTH.
YOU DEMON !!
I SEE. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE BUT AFTER SEEING SOMETHING LIKE THAT, I GUESS I HAVE TO ACCEPT IT.



IT'S A METHOD OF PLACING A SHEET OF PAPER OVER A SAMPLE DRAWING OR PHOTO AND SHINING A LIGHT FROM BELOW
COPY
ORIGINAL
TRACING BOARD
...AND THEN DRAWING A COPY.
TRACING ?
WHAT'S THAT ?
IN CHAPTER 11
THE MONSTERS WERE TRACED FROM THE TRPG RULE BOOK.
I SEE.
THE MINOTAUR'S ARM THAT WAS REDRAWN IN A HURRY ...
...AND WAS NOT DONE PROPERLY.
WOBBLE!
SO, THAT'S YOUR TRUE DRAWING ABILITY...
BUT IT'S A WASTE JUST USING IT TO DRAW MONSTERS.
HUH?

LIKE THIS, FOR EXAMPLE..
IF YOU MAKE THE KIND OF CHARACTERS YOU LIKE...
A HIGH ELF!
PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR ORDERS, MY MASTER...
...YOU CAN HAVE ALL SORTS OF FUN.
WOW
おおおお
AAAARGH!!!
AAAARGH!! I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT!!
WELL, MAYBE THINKING ABOUT TRPGS ALL THE TIME HAS CREATED AN AMASOGI.

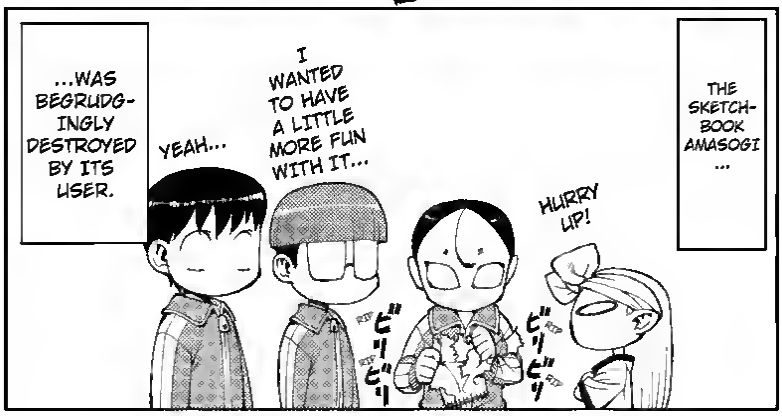
I'D LIKE TO TRY DRAWING KIRIHA FOR A MOMENT.
SHH-PAH PAH PAH PAH!!
ズバババッ
DO YOU MIND?
HMM? NO, I DON'T MIND.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALREADY DRAWING
もう描いてるし

ボリューム10倍!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
なにしてんじゃ
HER BOOBS ARE 10 TIMES BIGGER! THAT KIRIHA IS SO GLAMOROUS!!

THE BIG KIRIHA IS PRETTY TOO, ISN'T SHE?
RIGHT?

HOW ABOUT THIS? HER FUTURE FORM?

AAAAARGHH!!!
ぎゃりーっ
SHE'S ALSO 10 TIMES MORE SADISTIC !!
DON'T GET SO OVERLY-FAMILIAR, SERVANT!!
気安いんじゃ下僕がっ
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
ドガガガガッ


...WAS BEGRUDG-INGLY DESTROYED BY ITS USER.
YEAH...
I WANTED TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE FUN WITH IT...
THE SKETCH-BOOK AMASOGI ...
HURRY UP!
ビリビリ
ビリビリ

HELLO, THIS IS YOSHIKADU HAMADA.

THANKS TO YOU, THE SECOND VOLUME OF TSUGUMOMO HAS GONE ON SALE.

SINCE THIS WAS DRAWN DIGITALLY FROM START TO FINISH AND DESIGNED TO BE PUT ON THE INTERNET, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW IT WOULD TURN OUT IN A PRINTED FORMAT.
WHEN I GOT THE FIRST PRINTED VOLUME, I SAW THAT THE LINES WERE TOO THICK AND THE TONES TOO HEAVY AND I REALIZED THAT MY MONITOR SETTINGS WERE TOO RICH.
THIS ONLY HAPPENED BECAUSE I ONLY CHECKED THINGS ON MY MONITOR. THEREFORE, I'VE GRADUALLY BEEN MAKING THE LINES AND TONES THINNER FOR THE SECOND VOLUME.
HOWEVER, THE SECOND VOLUME HASN'T BEEN PRINTED YET SO I DON'T KNOW HOW WELL IT WILL TURN OUT. I'M EXCITED BUT WORRIED.
IT SEEMS LIKE I'M NOT GOOD AT WRITING LONG STORIES AND IT'S NOT PROCEEDING AT ALL LIKE I HAD PLANNED IT AT FIRST.
I KEEP HITTING DEAD-ENDS AND TEARING UP MY STORYBOARDS.
I ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR KUKURI TO HAVE THAT APPEARANCE BUT I DIDN'T PLAN THAT KIRIHA WOULD BECOME LIKE HER, SO I SURPRISED MYSELF THERE.
NEXT TIME, I KNOW THAT I WILL DEFINITELY CONTINUE TO FAIL TO MEET ANY OF THE PLANS I MAKE. STEERING THINGS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION IS TOUGH, SO I HAVE MANY CONCERNS.
IN THIS KIND OF MANGA, IT MIGHT BE A DISADVANTAGE TO THINK TOO SERIOUSLY ABOUT HISTORICAL RESEARCH OR CONSISTENCY. IF THE READERS CAN RELAX AND ENJOY IT, I'M HAPPY.

THE TARGET FOR NEXT TIME IS TO SHOW ALL OF THE FEMALE CHARACTERS NAKED. IT SOUNDS EASY BUT IT MIGHT BE PRETTY DIFFICULT.
GIRLS WITH REGULAR BODIES, LIKE KIRIHA, CHISATO AND KUKURI ARE OK BUT I'M REALLY BAD AT DRAWING GIRLS WITH HUGE BREASTS LIKE KOKUYOU, SO I'M GOING TO TRY REALLY HARD TO MASTER THIS.
I'D ALSO LIKE ANY NEW FEMALE CHARACTERS TO APPEAR NAKED, AND FOLLOW THAT PATTERN IN THE FUTURE.
AS FOR FAN-SERVICE, SOME OF THE SKETCHES IN THE STORYBOARDS SHOWED THE "BUTT PILLOW" AND WAS PLANNED TO BE A HIGHER LEVEL VERSION OF THE "HUMAN PILLOW". I THINK YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION BUT IT USES KIRIHA'S NAKED BUTT AS A PILLOW. THE BUTT PILLOW WAS NOT REJECTED BUT THE STORYBOARD WASN'T VERY GOOD, SO I COULDN'T DRAW IT THIS TIME BUT I WOULD LIKE TO TRY AGAIN SOMETIME.

THE WHOLE MANGA IS MADE USING A CINTIQ 21 UX TABLET AND COMIC STUDIO 4. I AM STILL NOT USING ANY ASSISTANTS. GOING FULLY DIGITAL IS AN EFFECTIVE PROCESS AND EVEN A SLOW WRITER LIKE ME IS JUST ABOUT ABLE TO MAKE A MONTHLY PUBLICATION BY MYSELF. WHAT AN ERA WE LIVE IN.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT, AS IN VOLUME 1, I PLAN TO UPLOAD VIDEOS OF THE MANGA SKETCHES AND COVER ILLUSTRATION PROCESS TO THE NICO NICO VIDEO SITE. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, GO CHECK IT OUT.

SEE YOU IN VOLUME 3!

High
Action Comics
COMIC HIGH!'S BRAND

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